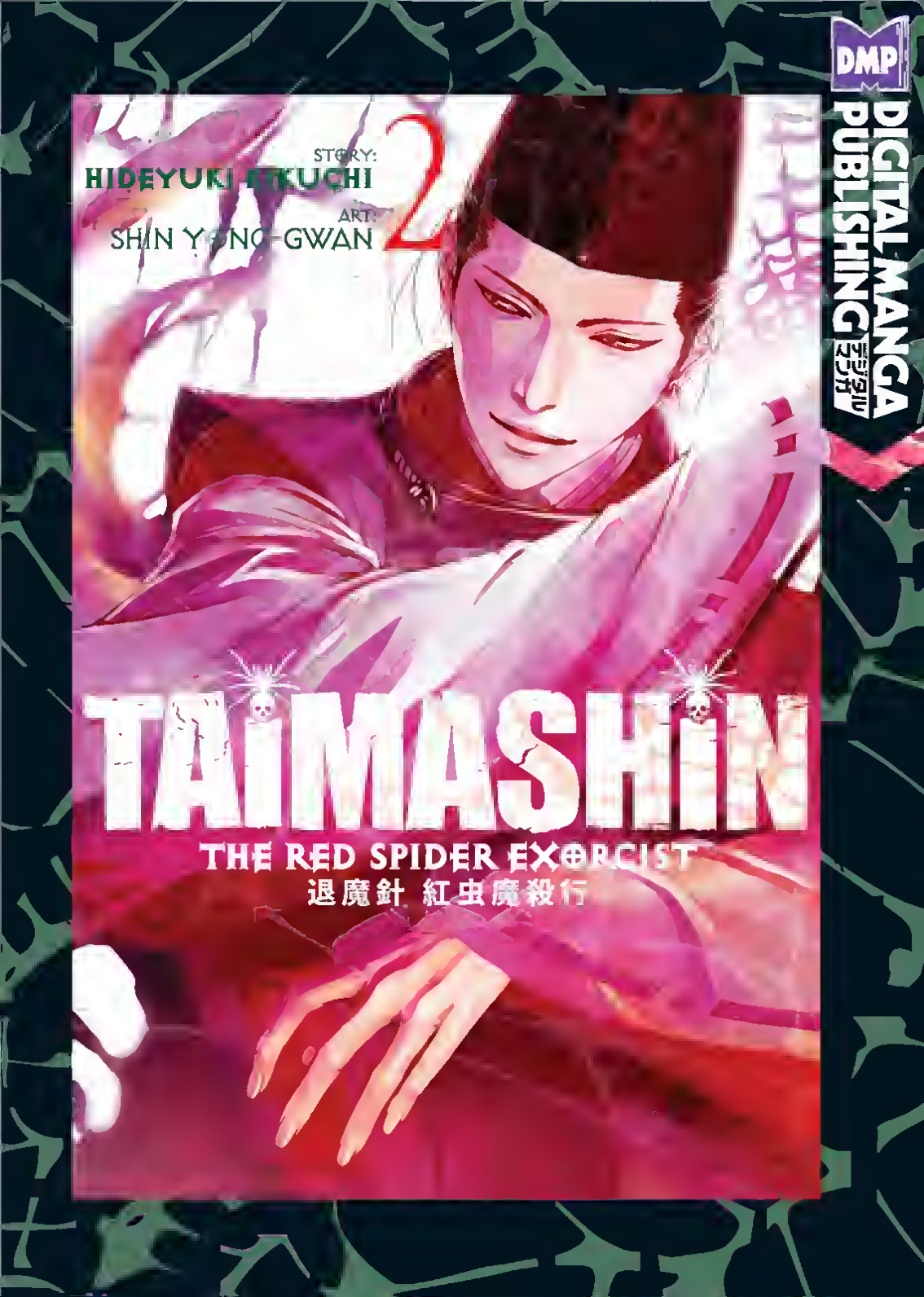
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STORY:
HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI
ART:
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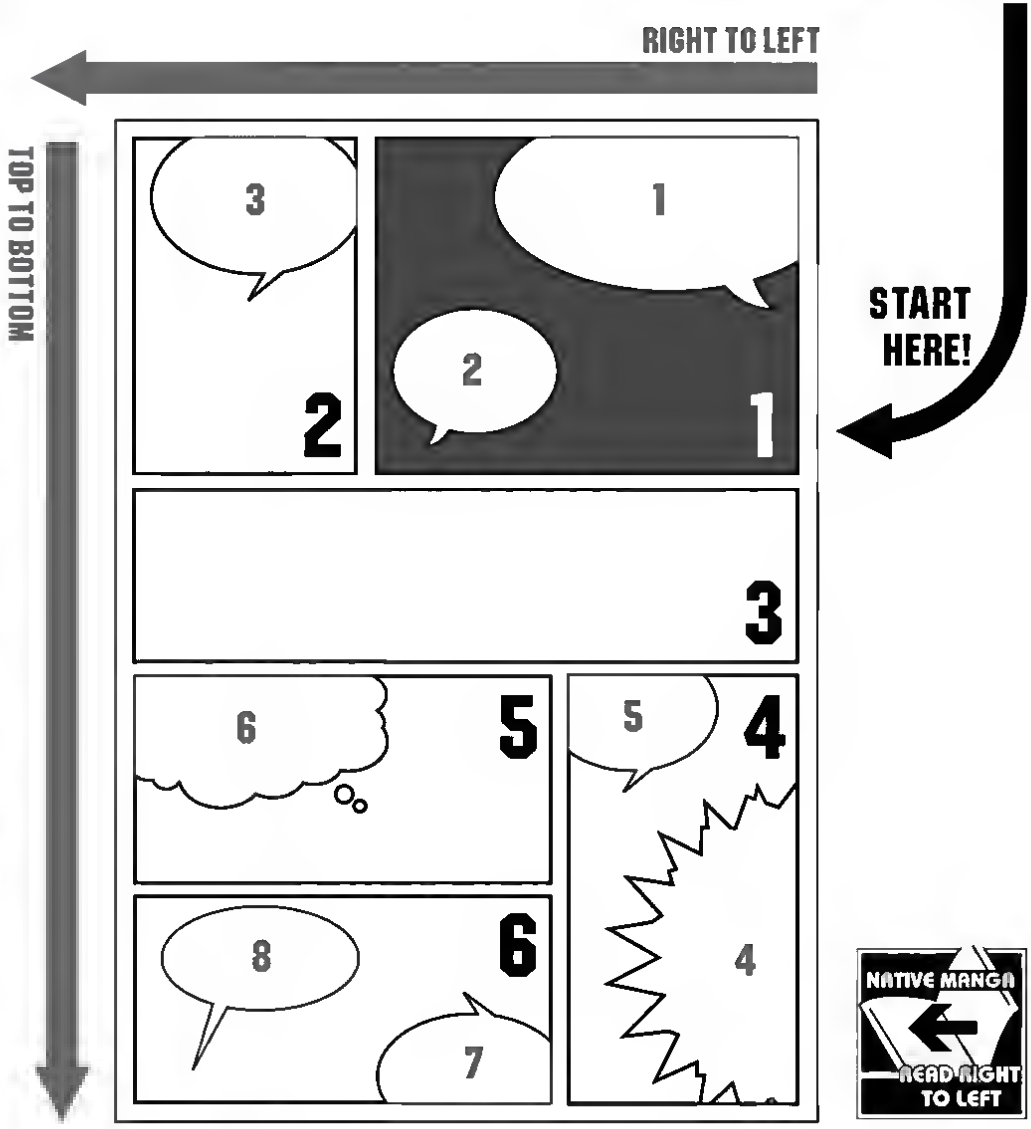
2
TAIMASHIN
THE RED SPIDER EXORCIST
退魔針 紅虫魔殺行

THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL IS READ IN ITS NATIVE FORMAT

READ EACH PANEL
FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM
SEE HOW IT'S DONE BELOW!



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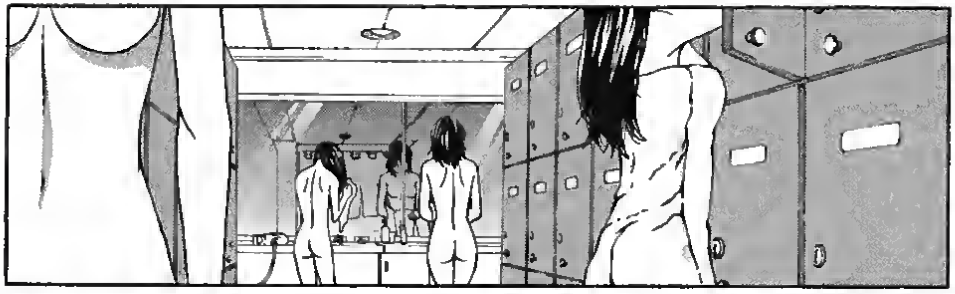
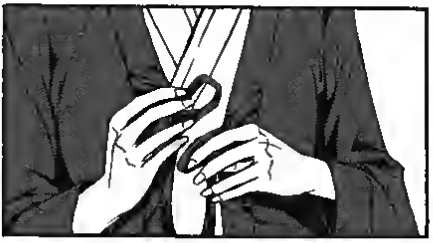
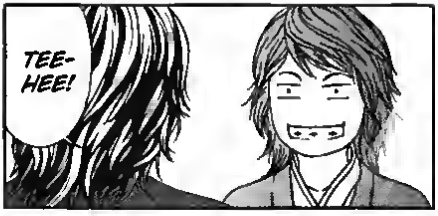
6. A MEMORY OF FIREWORKS
六、花火の記憶





YOU'LL UNDER-STAND IT ALL SOON ENOUGH.
YOUR LOVER AWAITS,
AS DO THE OTHERS. GO SEE TO ALL THAT REMAINS LEFT UNDONE. I'LL PROTECT YOU IN THE MEANTIME.


TEE-HEE!

OKAY!

GGWAK
RYOUJI, I'M BACK...
YOW!
MY PARENTS?!
WH- WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

THIS INN'S PRETTY NICE. WE'VE DECIDED TO STAY HERE A WHILE!
A *WHILE*...? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD ASSOCIATION?!

WE'RE ON A NEIGHBOR-HOOD ASSOCIATION TRIP.
WE CALLED YOUR OFFICE, AND THEY SAID YOU WERE HERE.

WELL, WE PRETTY MUCH JUST GET TO DO OUR OWN THING.
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

DANGER-OUS?

LISTEN, THE TRUTH IS... IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE AROUND ME.

...AS IF THEY WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT...
MONSTERS ARE AFTER ME.
WHOCK
WAHAHAHAHA! YOU COULD SAY SHE'S A REAL HEAVYWEIGHT-CLASS MONSTER!
MONSTERS, Y'SAY...WE GET THOSE A LOT IN JAPAN, TOO.
HERE'S ONE RIGHT HERE!
NO, I MEAN REAL ONES!
AHAHA-HAHA!!

OUR DAUGHTER'S ALWAYS HAD A CASE OF MYTHOMANIA.
RYOUJI...
NOW BAT-TING .300.
GO BACK TO SLEEP, DAD!!
AHA, MYTHOMANIA. IN OTHER WORDS, SHE LIES ALL THE TIME.
NO I DON'T! I TELL THE TRUTH SEVEN TIMES OUT OF TEN!
GAHAHAHA
WAHAHAHA

NOW, ON TO THE HOT SPRING!
YES, YES, WE'RE LEAVING...
OOP-SIE!
JUST GET OUT!!

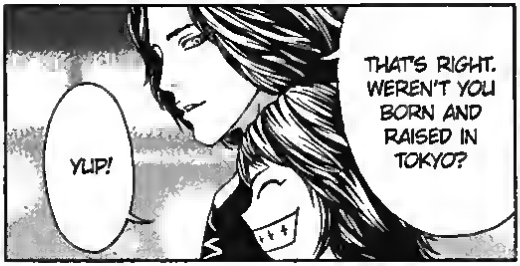
I KNOW I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE, BUT...!

WE ONLY JUST SAW MY PARENTS!
HEY...
MMM. STOP THAT! IT'S NOT EVEN DARK OUT YET...
REACH

HUH?
FIRE-WORKS...?
I COULD SEE FIRE-WORKS.
EEEEEEK!!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
GET OFF ME, MONSTER!!
YOU SAW THEM TOO, DIDN'T YOU?

GET A GRIP.
MEGU-MI!!
RYOUJI...
THERE'S STILL TIME BEFORE DINNER. WE'RE AT A HOT SPRING, SO WE MIGHT AS WELL GO SHOPPING.

IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE MARKET AT SENSOJI TEMPLE.


THAT'S RIGHT. WEREN'T YOU BORN AND RAISED IN TOKYO?
YUP!

HUH?

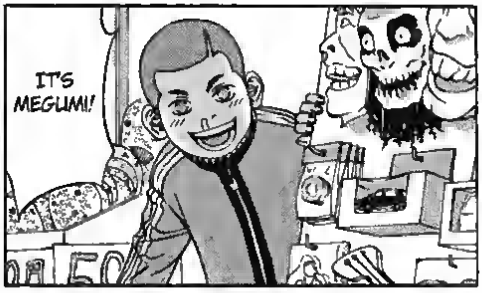
HI, MEGUMI.

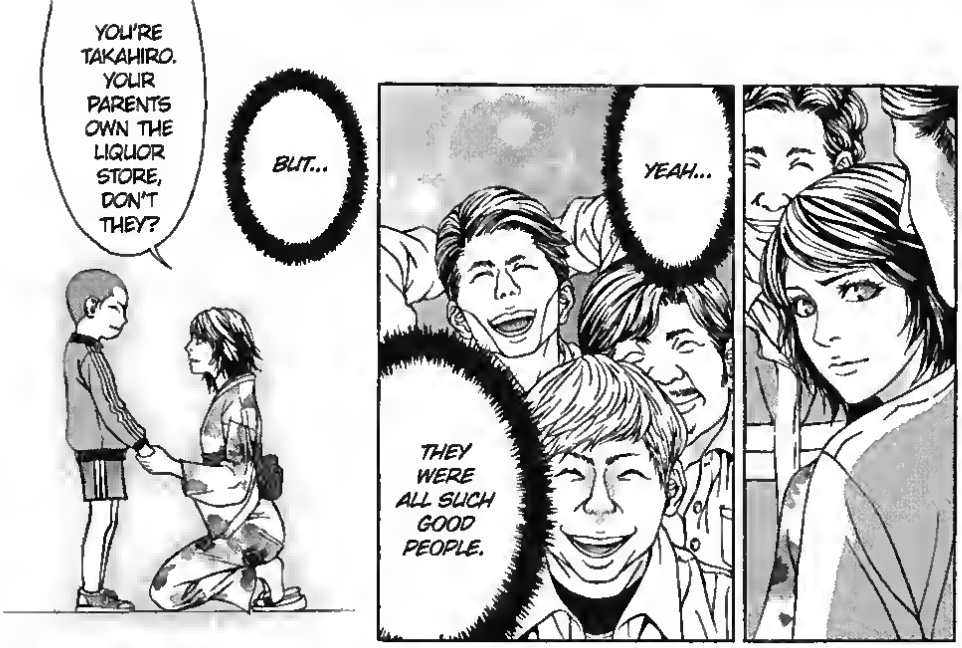
HEY. WHEN DID YOU SET UP SHOP IN KOREA?
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
MR. TAKA-MURA?!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T MEGUMI!!
HUH?! MS. TAKI?
THEN...

...IS THIS SENSOJI TEMPLE?

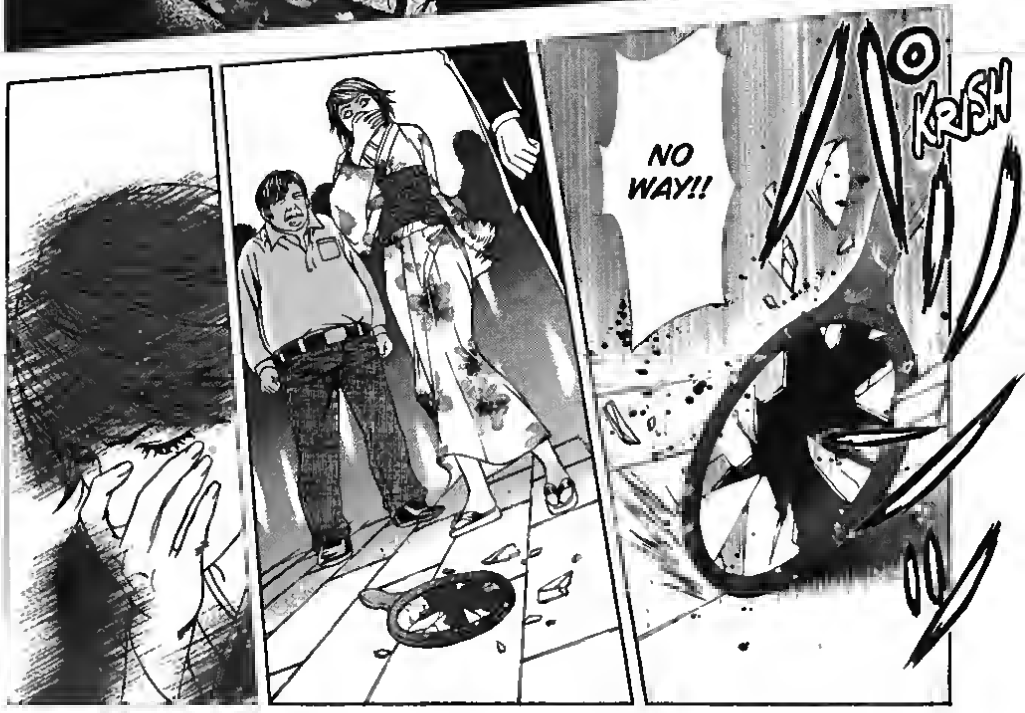
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.
LOOK HOW PRETTY YOU'VE GOTTEN.
MURMUR
MURMUR

HI, MEGUMI!


IT'S MEGUMI!


YOU'RE TAKAHIRO. YOUR PARENTS OWN THE LIQUOR STORE, DON'T THEY?
BUT...
YEAH...
THEY WERE ALL SUCH GOOD PEOPLE.

MEGUMI... I BOUGHT A MIRROR.
TAKE A LOOK.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, AND WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DID OVER TEN YEARS AGO...?
BUT DIDN'T YOU DIE IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WHEN YOU WERE FIVE...?


NO WAY!!
KRISH

か ひ だ
みはしや
THEY'RE DEAD...!!
THEY'RE ALL DEAD!!
JUST STOP RUNNING, ALREADY.

DON'T YOU GET IT YET?

FIRE-
WORKS---

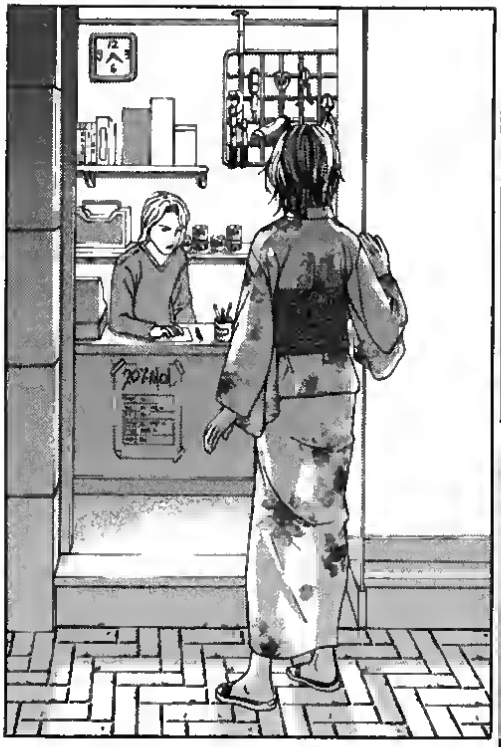
FIRE-
WORKS!!!

THAT'S RIGHT... I WAS ON THE SUBWAY THAT NIGHT, AND THERE WAS A GAS EXPLOSION WITH THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION...
AND I DIED!!

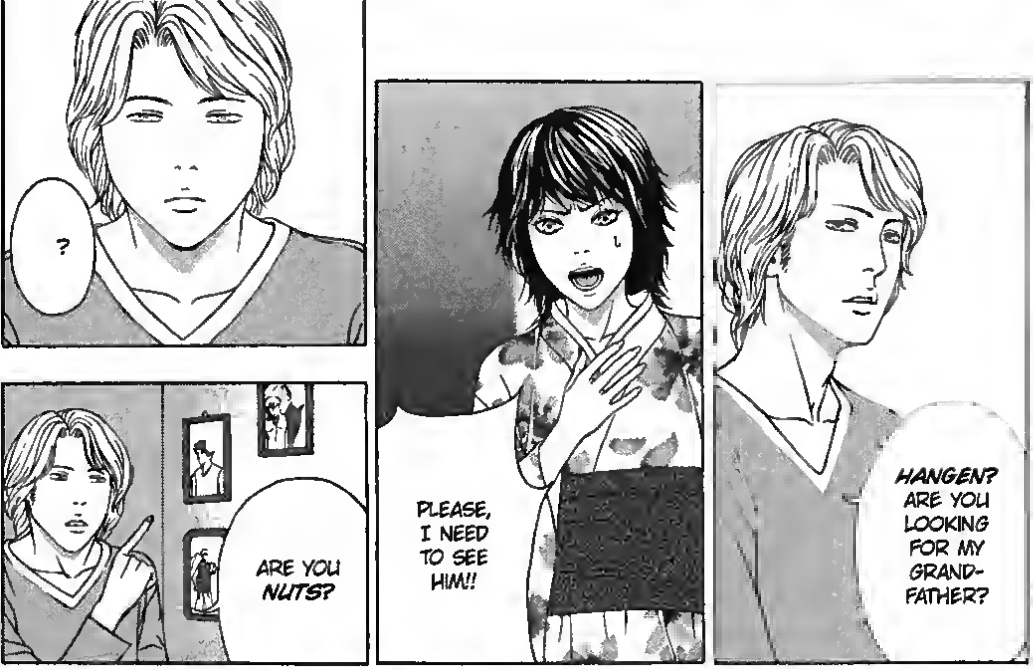
NO, WAIT! THAT CAN'T BE.
I'VE BEEN ALIVE AND BREATHING THIS WHOLE TIME... I STILL AM...

IT'S NOT TRUUUUE !!
IS THIS...?
THIS'S THE SOUTH END OF DONG-DAEMUN MARKET.
I'M HANGEN, AND I RUN A GENERAL STORE THERE.

HE CAN PROVE TO ME I'M STILL ALIVE.
HANGEN'S AROUND HERE!!
I'LL RUN!!



HANGEN, HANGEN!!


?
ARE YOU NUTS?
PLEASE, I NEED TO SEE HIM!!
HANGEN? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MY GRAND-FATHER?

HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR TWENTY YEARS.

AND YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE...

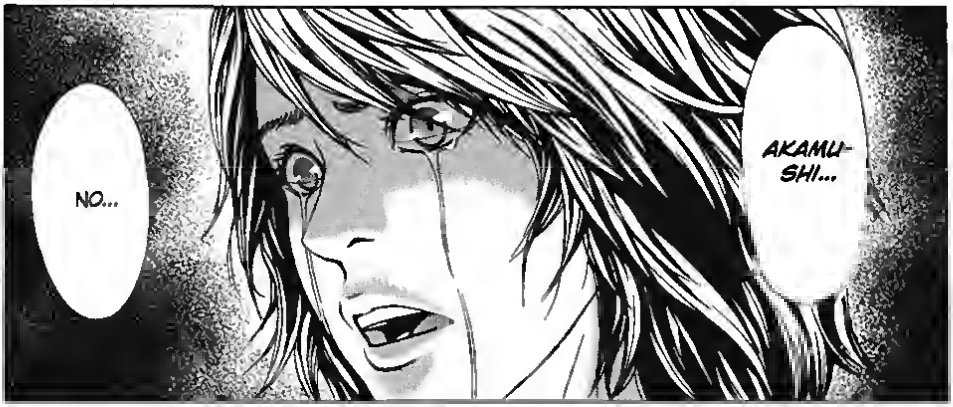
RYOUJI...I REMEMBER... YOU WERE WITH ME...

MOM...
DAD...

THEN THE ACCIDENT HAP-PENED...
MR. TAKAMURA, MS. TAKI...
THEY WERE ALL ON A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION TRIP TO KOREA... YOU AND I WERE THEIR TOUR GUIDES...

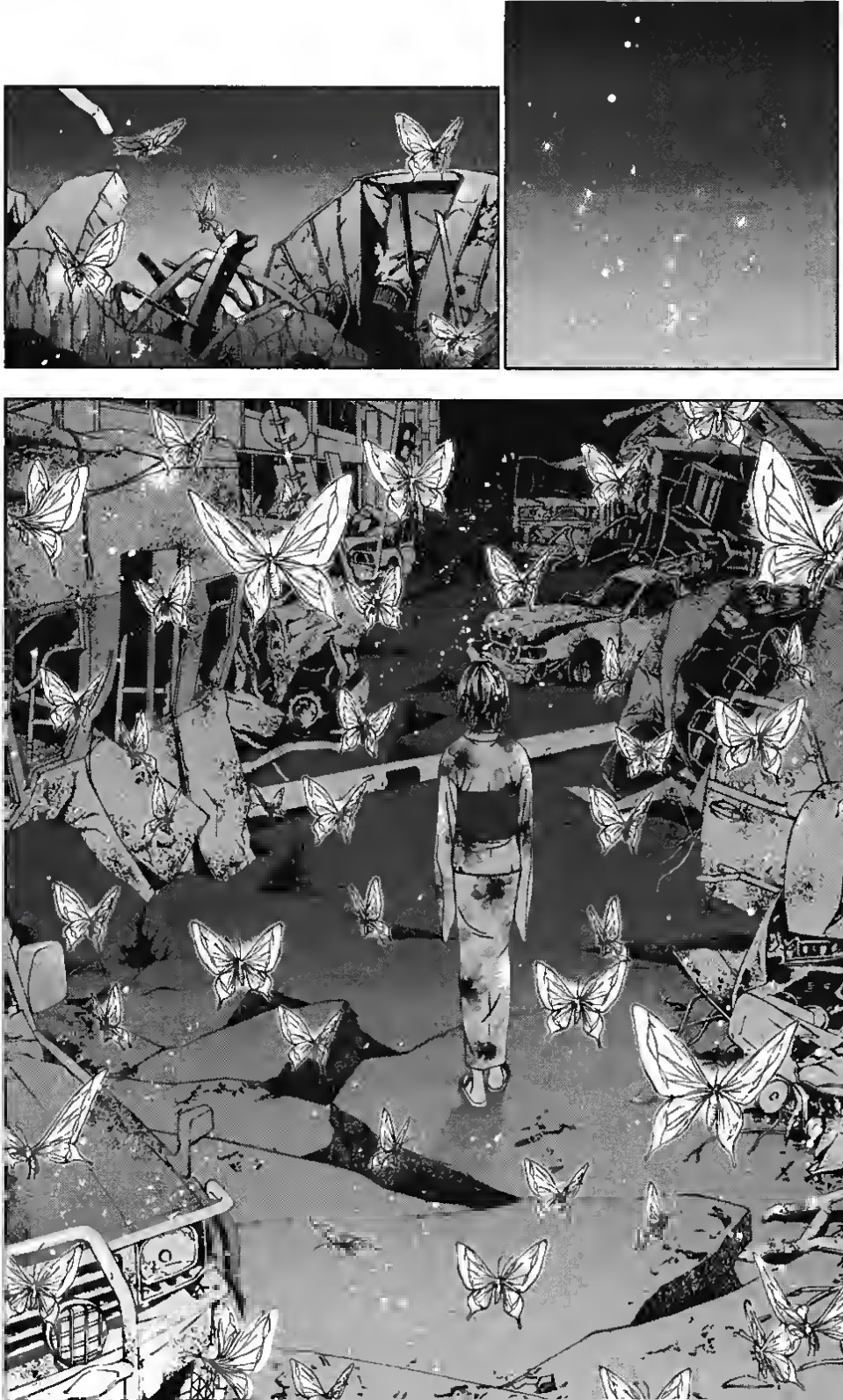
THAT'S RIGHT, MEGUMI.
WE'RE DEAD NOW. YOU WERE WORN OUT AND HAD DOZED OFF. THE EXPLOSION HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T REALIZE SHE WAS *DEAD*.
UNH...

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IT ALL SOON ENOUGH.

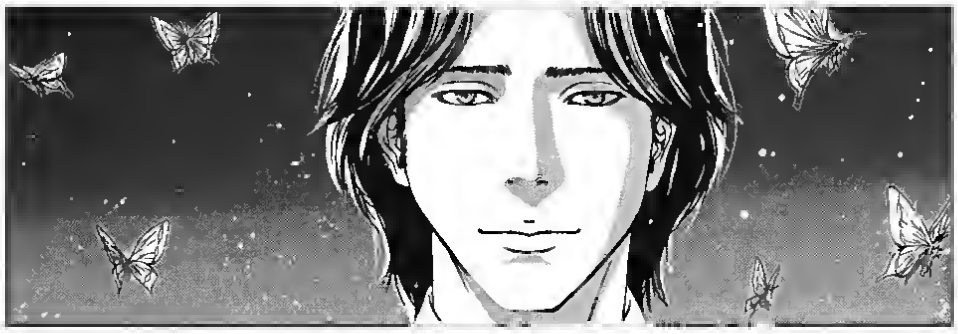

NO...
AKAMUSHI...

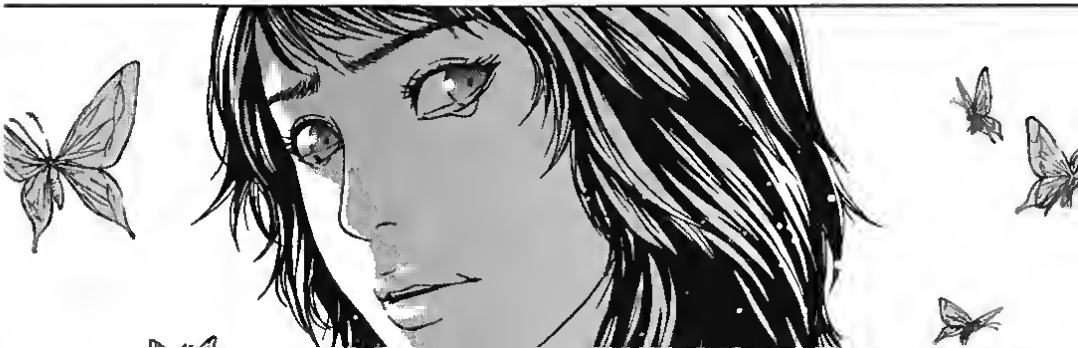
AUGHHHHHH!!

7. NIGHTMARE KISS
七、悪夢の口づけ



I
DIED...!





SO, I'M DEAD. CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.
I'LL JUST MAKE THE MOST OF THE OTHER SIDE! OH, I GUESS IT'S "THIS SIDE" NOW.
OKAY, OKAY!
IT'S NOT LIKE I DIED ALL BY MYSELF. RYOUJI, DAD, AND MOM ARE WITH ME...
NO! YOU'RE STILL IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE.

?
RYOUJI, LOOK OUT!!

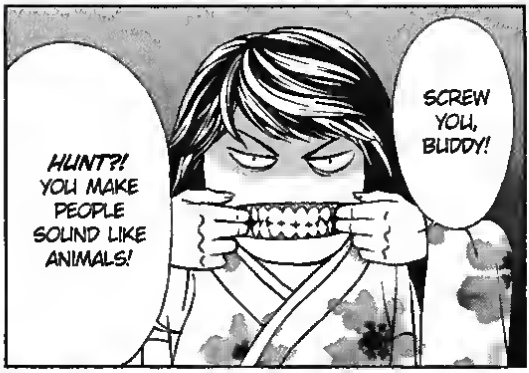
CHUNK

WHOMP

EEEEEK
!!

REMEMBER ME?
I'M KIRAI.

BUT LIKE YOU, SOME SOULS AREN'T AWARE THEY'RE DEAD, AND THEY WANDER AROUND THE *TWILIGHT ZONE. THOSE* ARE THE ONES WE HUNT.
USUALLY, THE DEAD GO TO THE NETHERWORLD. THAT'S THE BIG "RULE" THAT EVEN *WE* CAN'T BREAK.
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL? YOU FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY *HERE?!* WHAT DO YOU WANT?


SCREW YOU, BUDDY!
HUNT?! YOU MAKE PEOPLE SOUND LIKE ANIMALS!

I...I'M ALREADY DEAD! HOW CAN A DEAD PERSON DIE AGAIN?!

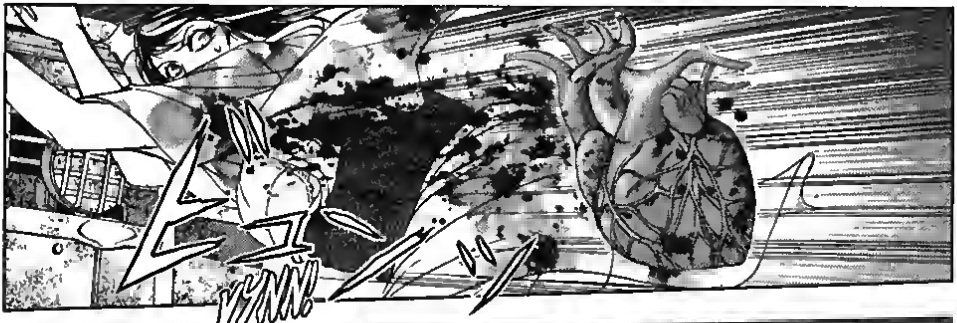
YOU BET... YOU'LL CURSE ALL LIVING THINGS, MAKE DISASTERS HAPPEN, AND THEN CLAIM THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO DIE AS MORE OF OUR KIND.

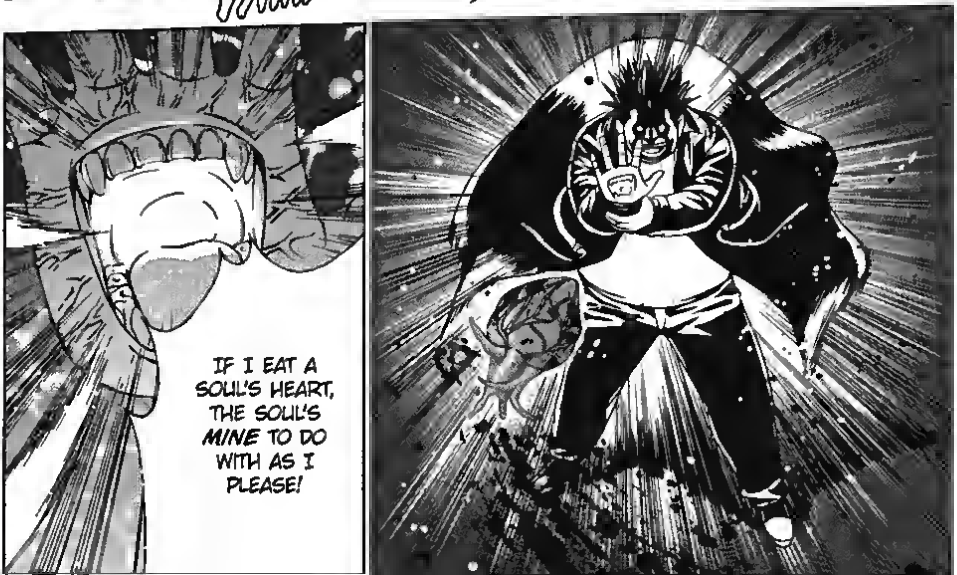
YOU'RE A LIVELY BITCH, BUT YOU'LL LEARN....IT'S OUR JOB TO CATCH WANDERING SOULS AND MAKE THEM JOIN OUR RANKS.
AND THEN WHAT? WILL SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO ME?

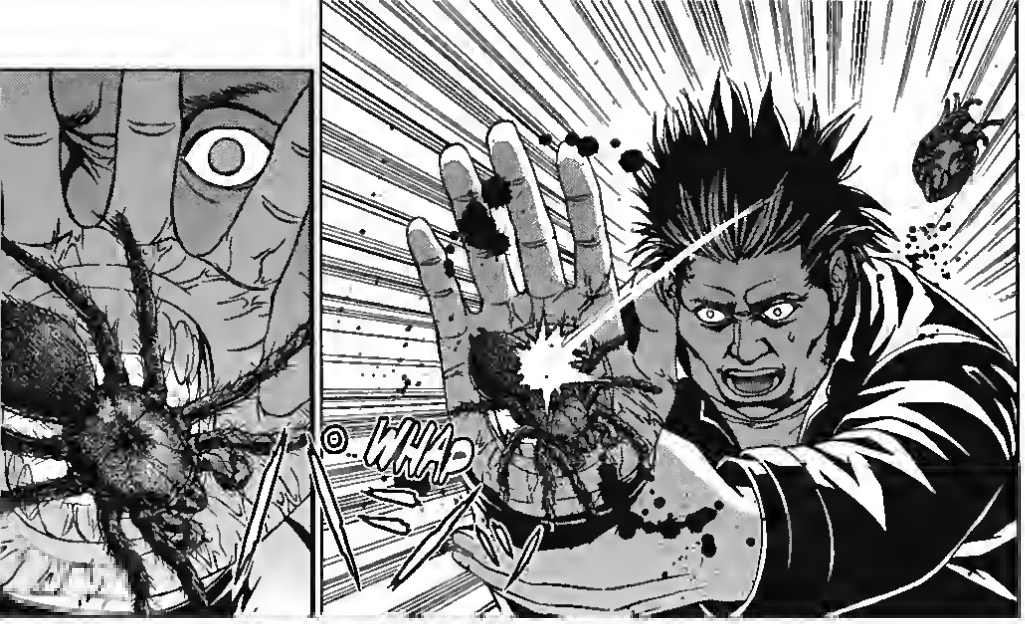
SHINING
LOOK.
THAT'S INSANE! PEOPLE JUST HATE YOU IF YOU PULL THAT CRAP!!
WHY CURSE THE LIVING AS REVENGE FOR NOT GETTING TO REST IN PEACE?!
IGH...!
WHOOSH

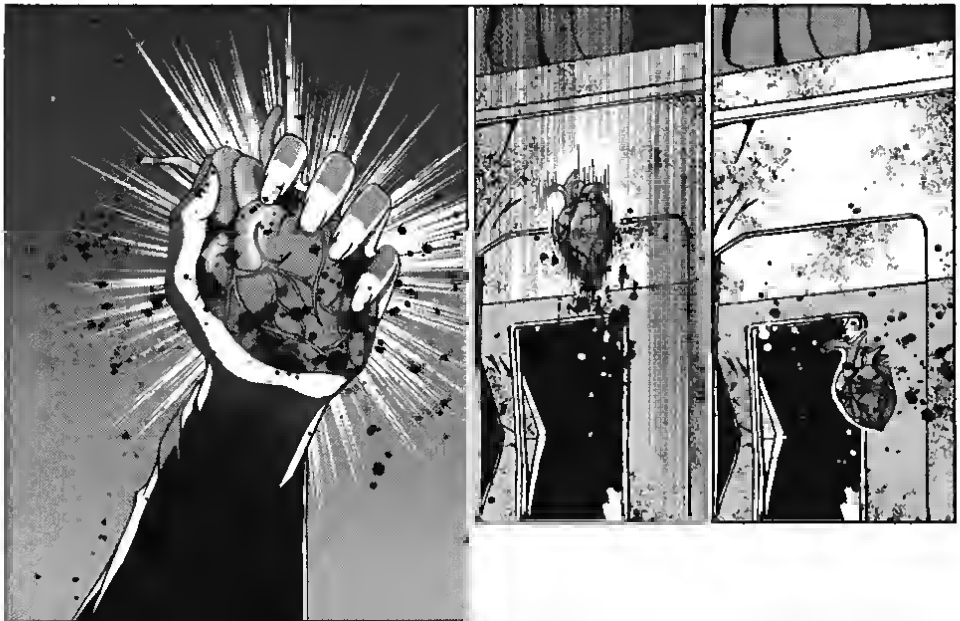
BATHUMP

MY...
HEART!?!


LYNN!


IF I EAT A SOUL'S HEART, THE SOUL'S *MINE* TO DO WITH AS I PLEASE!


WHAP



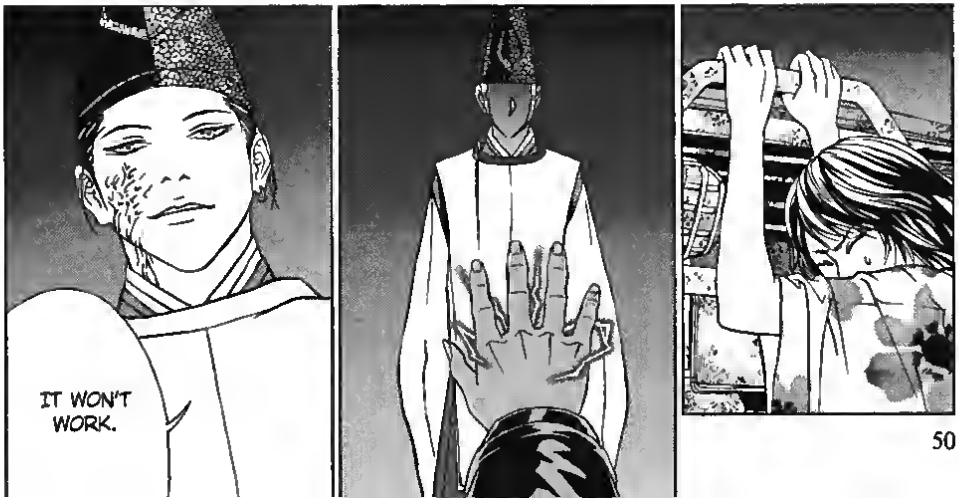
AKAMU-
SHI!!

ドク
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
ドクン!!

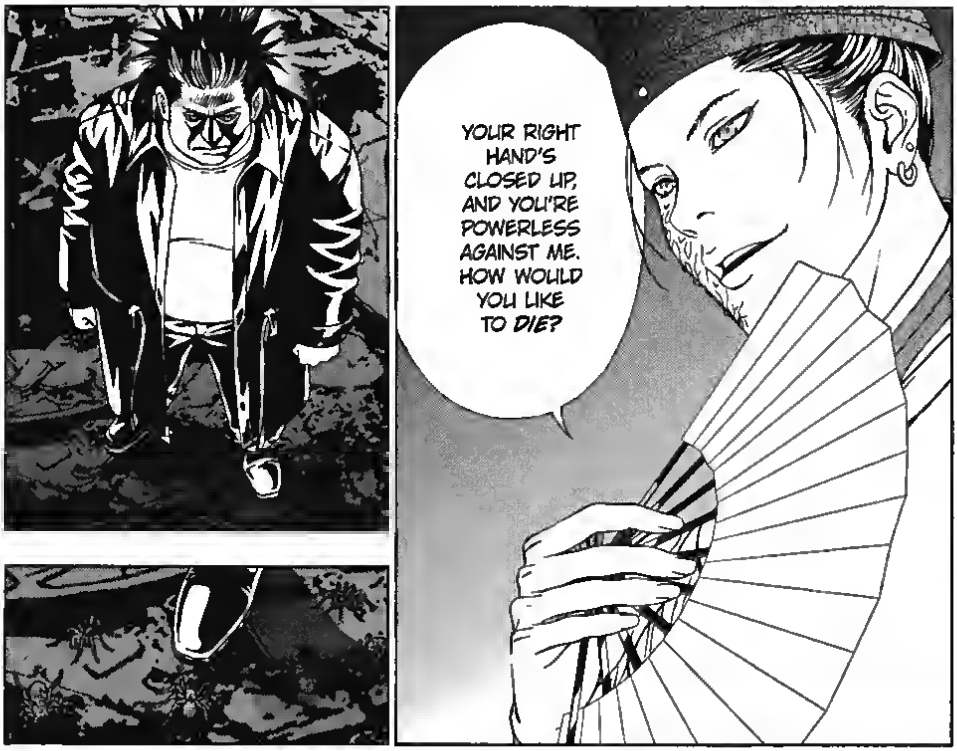
YES, 'TIS I.

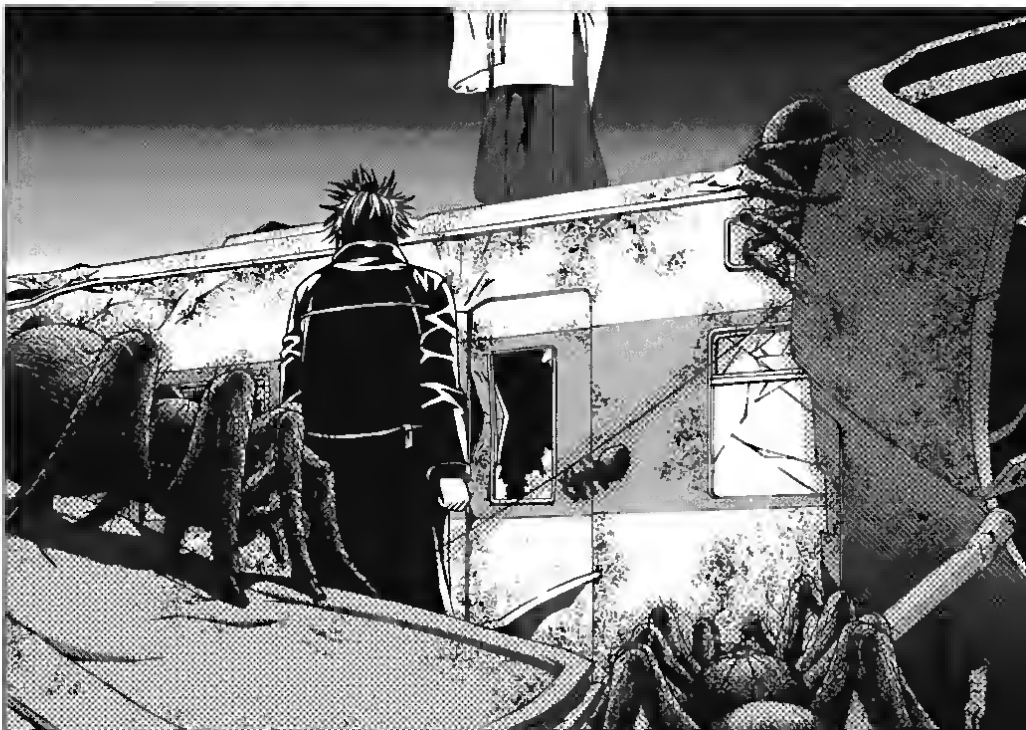
...!!
I...CAN'T SPEAK!!
I'VE COME TO SHOW YOU MY FINAL DANCE.

STAY OUTTA THIS, YOU DAMN FREAK!!
ROHHHHH !!


IT WON'T WORK.

MY MOUTH'S BEEN STITCHED SHUT!! BUT, WHEN?! HOW?!
WHY NOT...?
YOU MEAN THAT SPIDER DID IT?! I'M SCREWED...!!

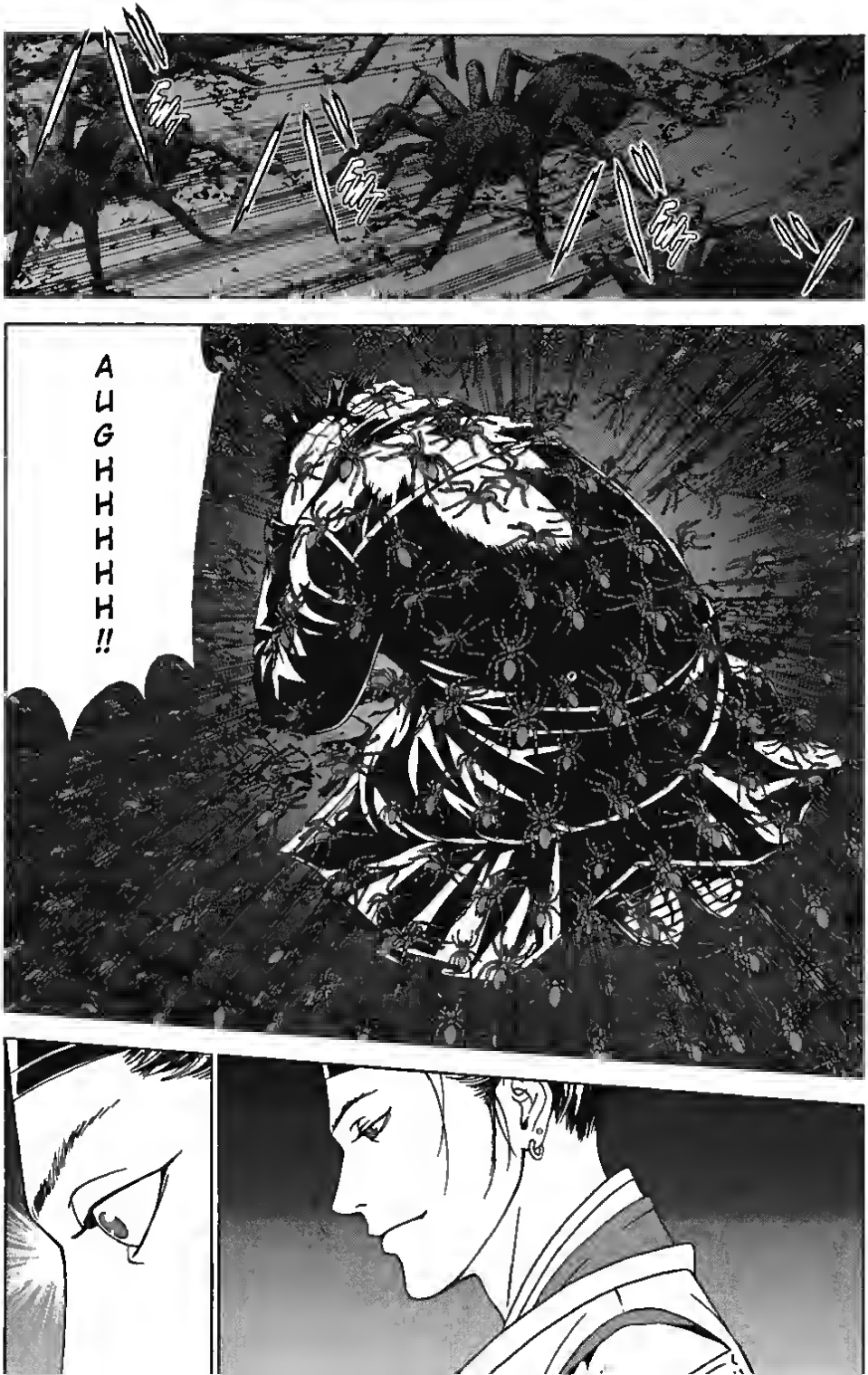

YOUR RIGHT HAND'S CLOSED UP, AND YOU'RE POWERLESS AGAINST ME. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO *DIE*?



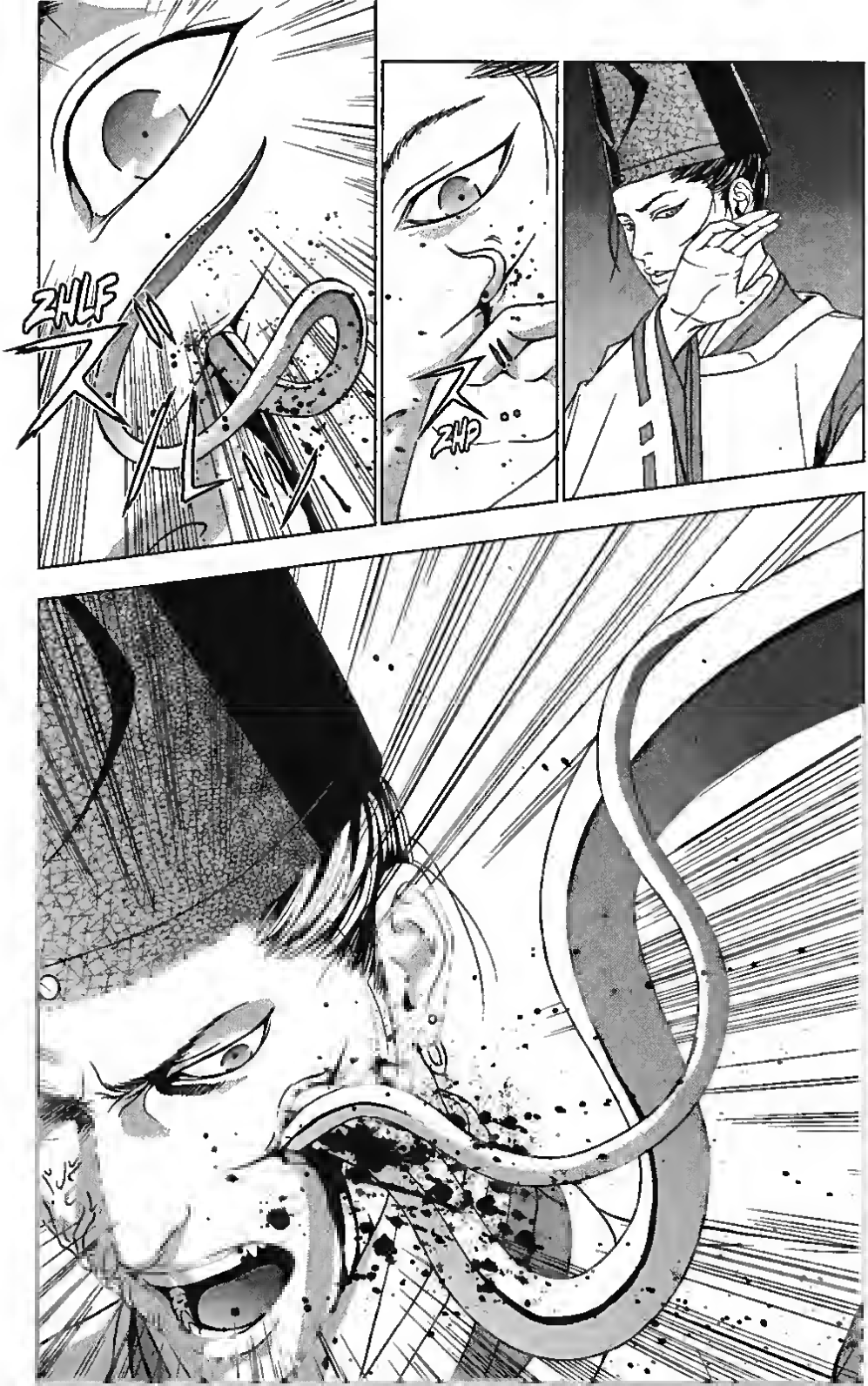
SHP
SHP
HOW ABOUT IF MY DEAR CHILDREN DEVOUR YOUR BODY AND YOUR SOUL?

SFFF
SHP
SHP

GYAH!!
WHUM
YOU WON'T ESCAPE.


AUGHHHHHH!!

*note "Ginga" means "silver fang."

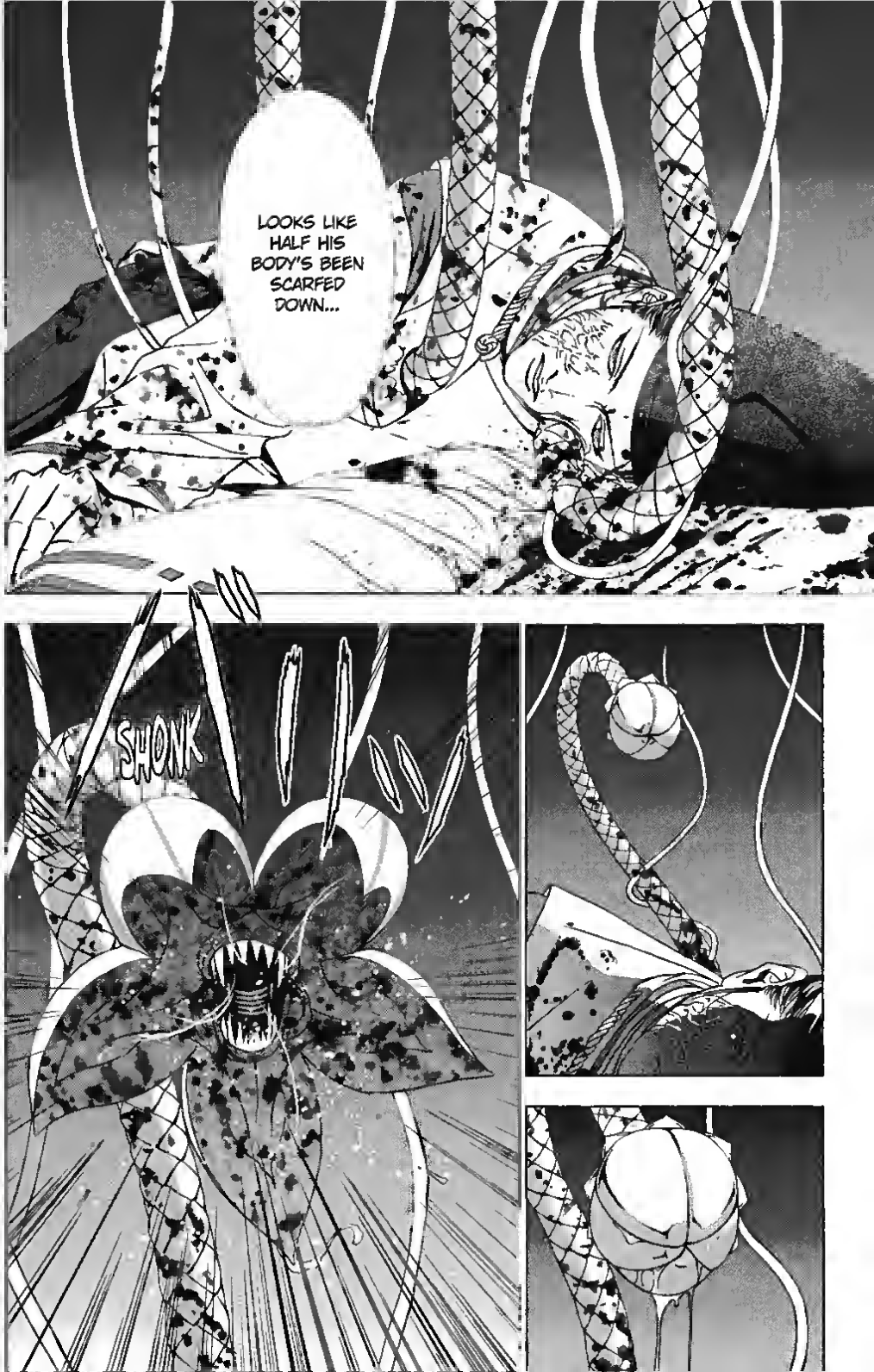

ZHLF
ZHP

ZHLF
KILL
ZHLF
KILL
ZHLF
KILL

HAH... HAHAHAHA ...

IS THAT... A PLANT?!

INRAN'S GINGA KISS PLANTS IN HER ENEMY'S BODY A SEED OF NASTY EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE-FORMS THAT CAN SURVIVE IN THIS PLANET'S ENVIRONMENT.
CHOMP
THAT MEAT-EATER'S FROM ORION.

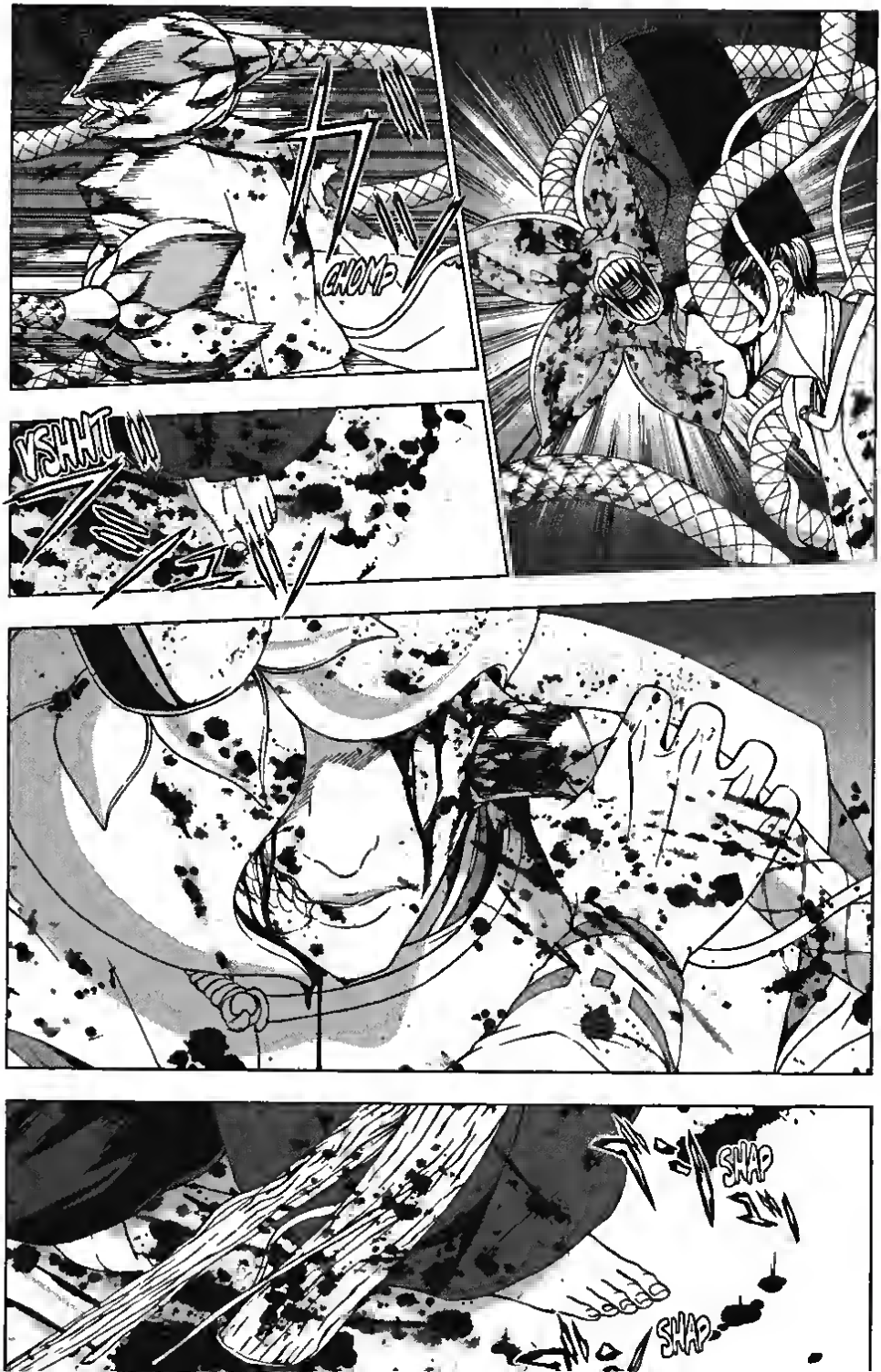

LOOKS LIKE HALF HIS BODY'S BEEN SCARFED DOWN...
SHONK

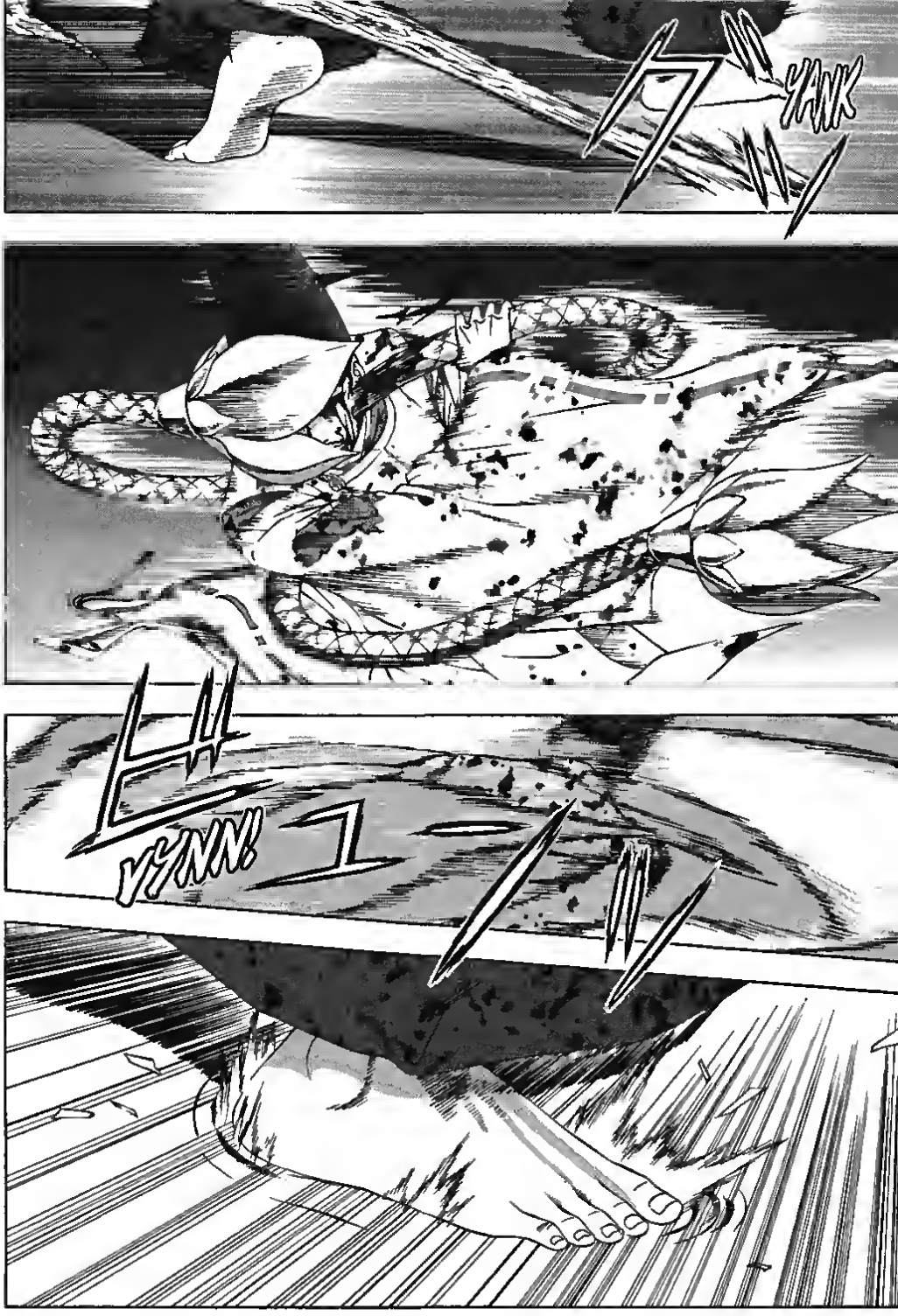
SHRIP
CHOMP
GULP
MNCH
MNCH
NOT EVEN A HYDROGEN BOMB'LL MELT THE METAL SKIN ON THAT THING... *INRAN* REALLY WENT ALL OUT ON THIS ONE...

A WOMAN'S REVENGE IS A DREADFUL THING...
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
ゴボッ
UOHHHHN

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
OH MY GOD...
NOW CEASE TO BE, AKAMUSHI FUJIWARA!!

8. MEGUMI'S DEPARTURE
八、恵の旅立ち


CHOMP
YSHHT
SNAP
SNAP


CLANK
VYNN!

FLING
WHAM
WHAM
WHOOK

MY HEART!!

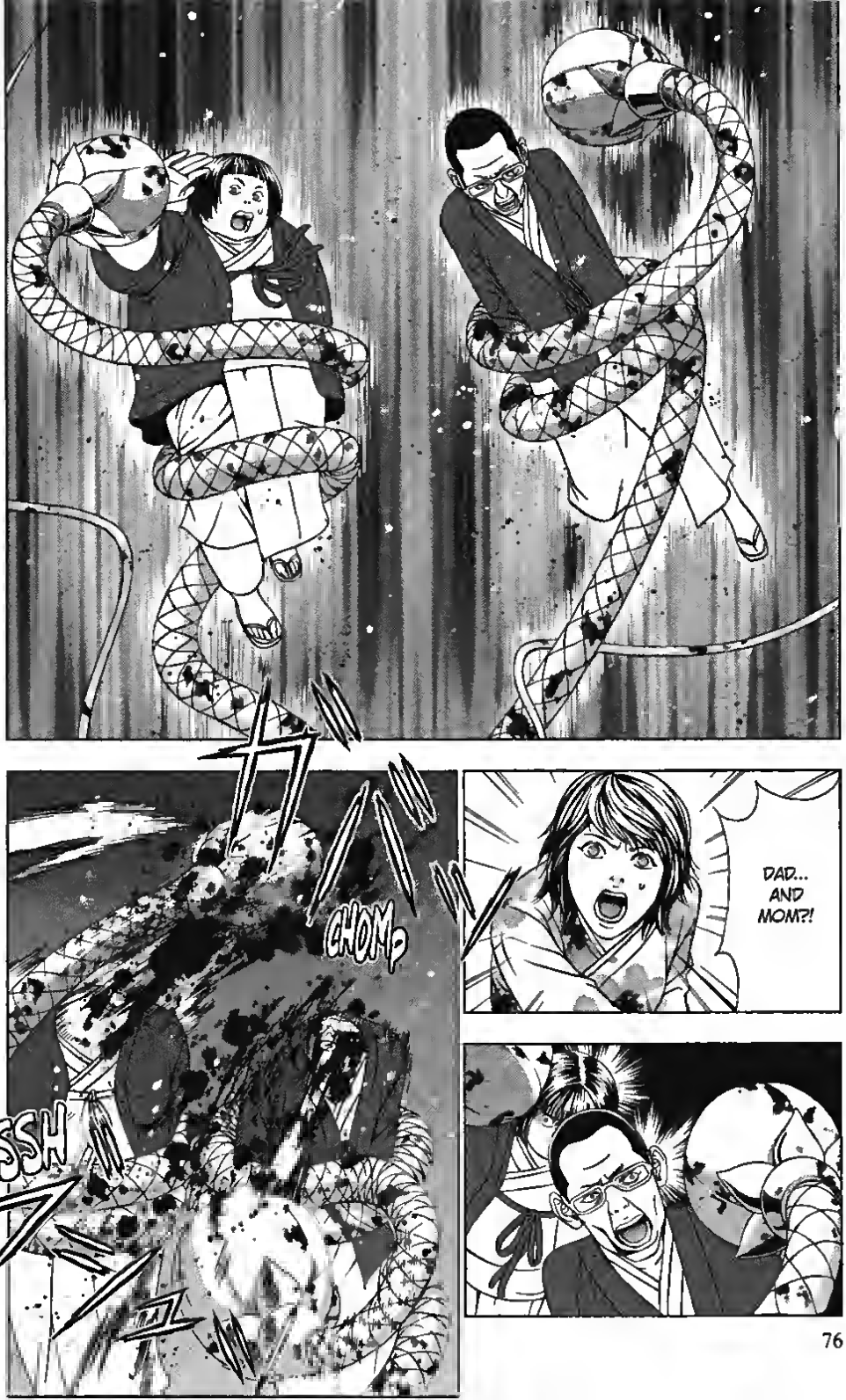
HERE'S YOUR... HEART...

FWOOMP
I CAN SPEAK!!
AKAMUSHI!! SPEAK TO ME!!

WOMEN ARE SUCH *FOOLISH* CREATURES THEY ALWAYS REACT THE SAME WAY...
BUT---REST ASSURED I'LL SOON BE WHOLE AGAIN.

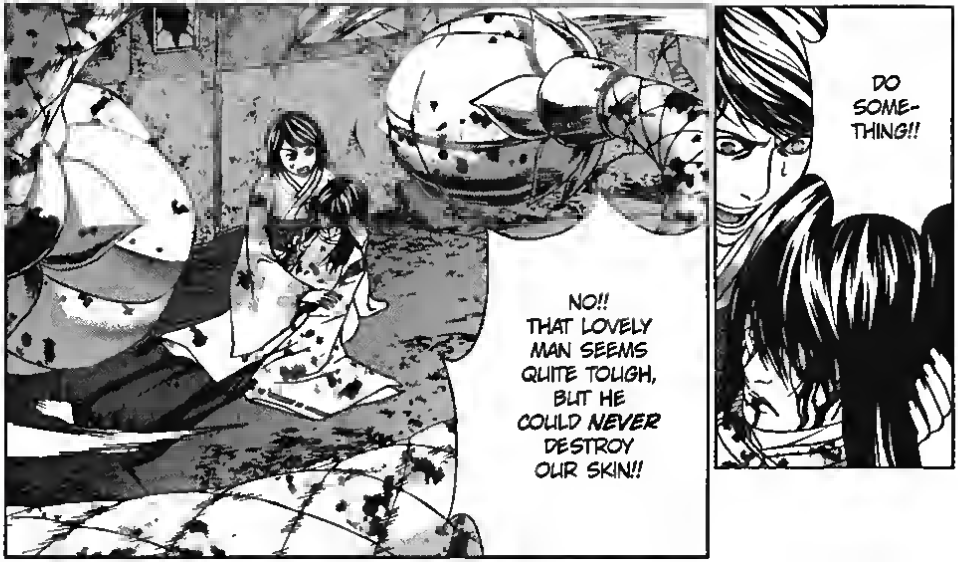
GRAHHHHH!!

OH, *REALLY?!* THAT'S GREAT, BUT HOW?

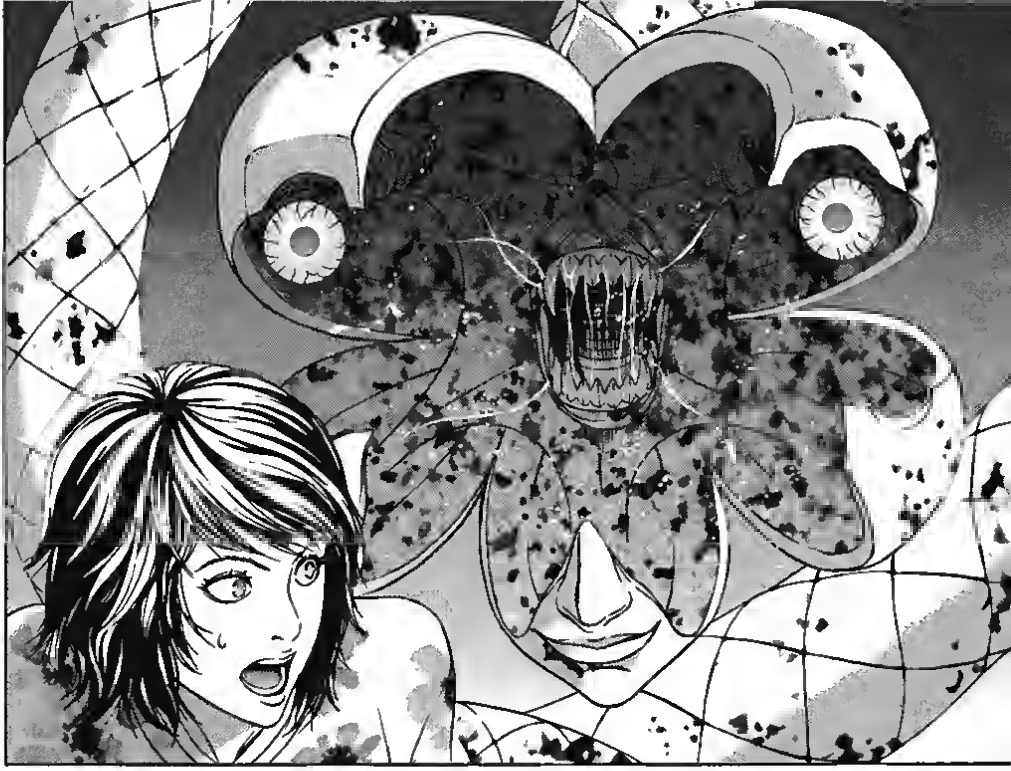

CHOMP
VSSH
DAD... AND MOM?!

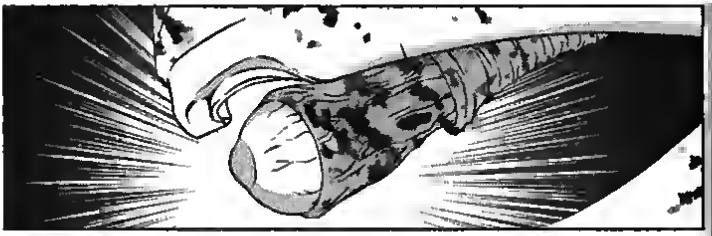
NOOOO!!
INRAN!!
KIRA!!
YESSS..
KIRA! AND I
GOT TO
TRANSFER
OUR SOULS
INTO THIS
CREATURE

NOW WE'RE GOING TO DEVOUR BOTH OF YOU!!
NO, WE'LL EAT EVERY SOUL THAT WANDERS INTO THE TWILIGHT ZONE!!


DO SOME-THING!!
NO!! THAT LOVELY MAN SEEMS QUITE TOUGH, BUT HE COULD NEVER DESTROY OUR SKIN!!

NO!! GO AWAY!!
JUST GIVE UP AND BECOME OUR NEXT MEAL!
OH NO. MR. SEXY CAN'T HELP YOU! GIVE UP.
GUHA!



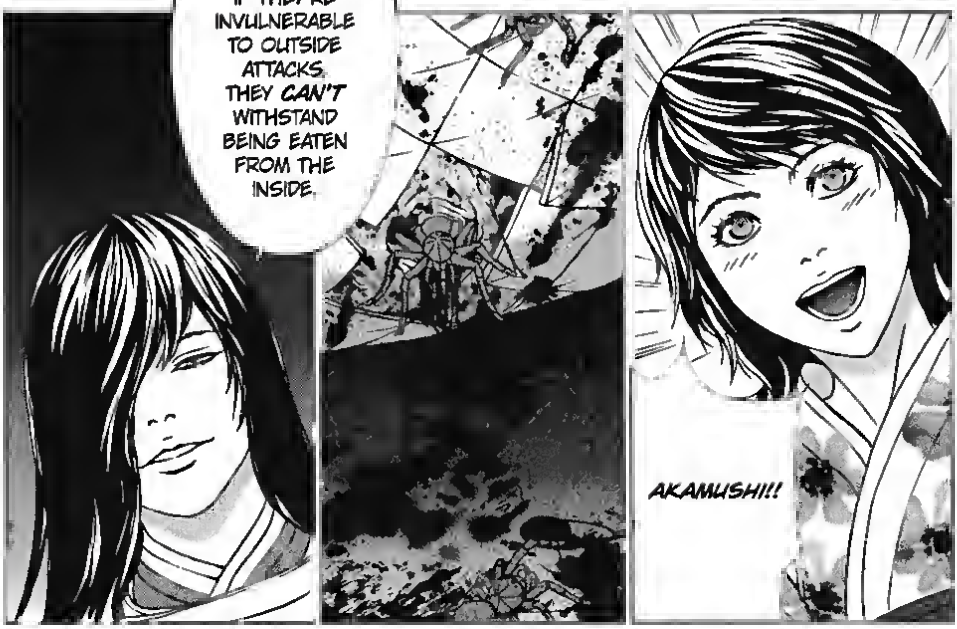


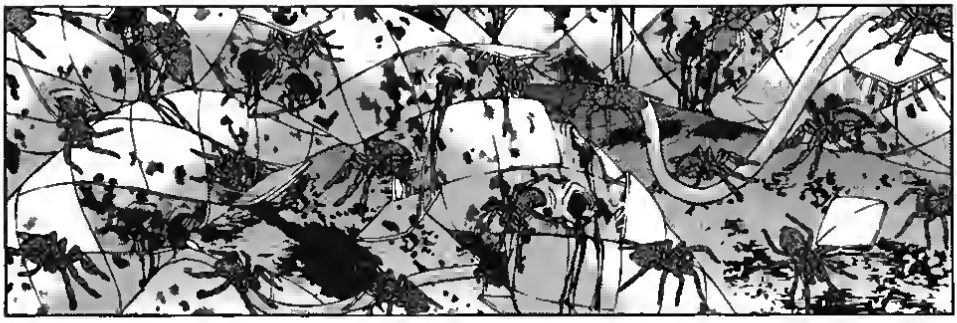
SAVE ME, AKAMUSHI...

GH...!
GEHHH!!

WHAT THE HELL?!
GRAH AH AHHH!!!
GAHA!!
GUHO!!
FOOLISH CREATURES ...
SPIDERS ?!

THEY LIKELY THOUGHT THEY'D EATEN ME, BUT *THEY* WERE ACTUALLY THE ONES BEING *EATEN.*


EVEN IF THEY'RE INVULNERABLE TO OUTSIDE ATTACKS, THEY CAN'T WITHSTAND BEING EATEN FROM THE INSIDE.
AKAMUSHI!!



SHFF
SHFF

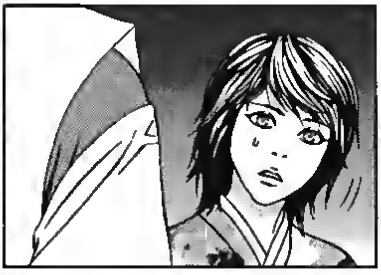
AKAMUSHI---
FUJIWARA!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND.
HO HO HO! AS IF I WOULD REALLY DIE.
OLD LADY! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
I'M DEAD, BUT YOU AND AKAMUSHI ARE BOTH ALIVE.
THAT'S GOOD! I HOPE YOU TWO LIVE A LONG TIME.

YIPPEE!
YES, PART OF THE WAY.
LET'S GET GOING.
YOU'RE GOING TO ESCORT ME?
WILL I GO ON LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE?
---IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING.
---NO, THAT'S OKAY. LET'S SAY GOOD-BYE HERE.
WHY? I FIGURED I'D USE MY CANDLE TO LIGHT THE *DARK PATH* FOR YOU.

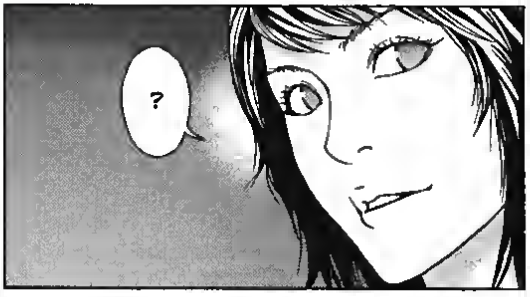
I'LL HAVE A BRAND-NEW LIFE! I CAN'T KEEP DEPENDING ON OTHER PEOPLE TO GET ME STARTED.. I'LL WALK ALL BY MYSELF.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT. WE'LL PART HERE, THEN.



WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD, THE WAY YOU'VE ALWAYS WALKED.
TCH! I WASN'T GONNA CHARGE MUCH...

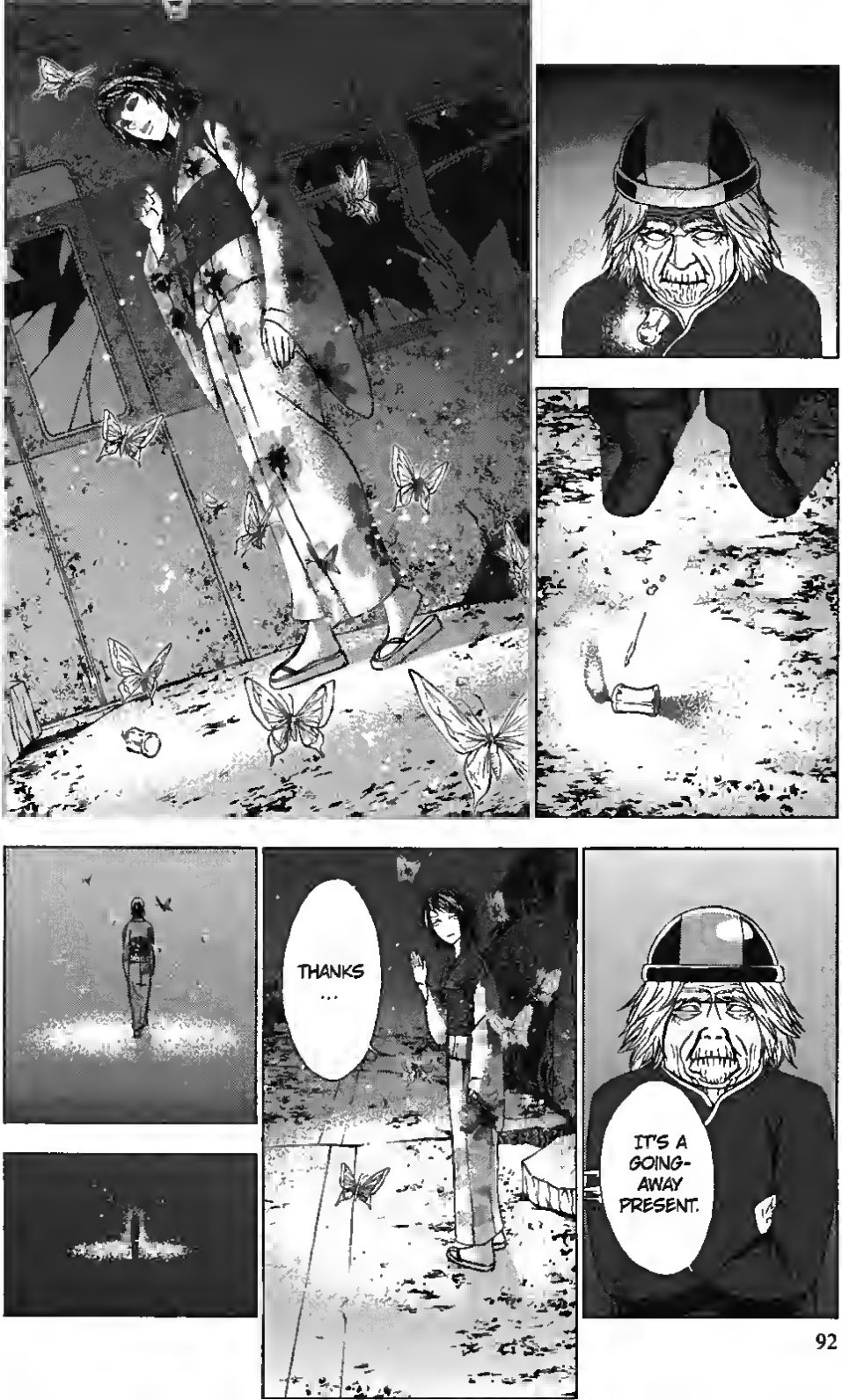
CAN IT, YOU OLD MISER!


?

OH!!
MOM, DAD,
RYOUJI!!!

GO ON AHEAD.
WE'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

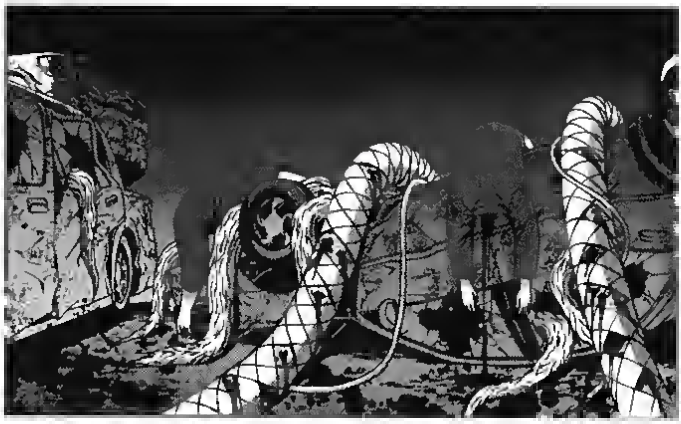
SURE!

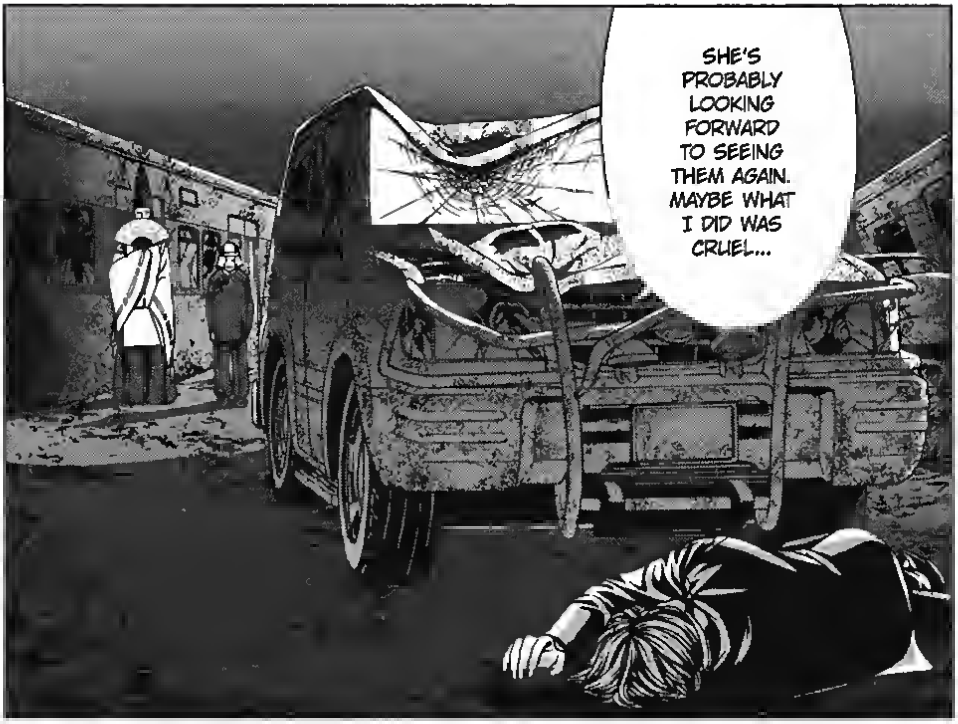

THANKS ...
IT'S A GOING-AWAY PRESENT.

AND SHE'S GONE.

SHE'S FOOLISH, BUT STRONG. I IMAGINE SHE'LL MAKE DO ON THE OTHER SIDE.

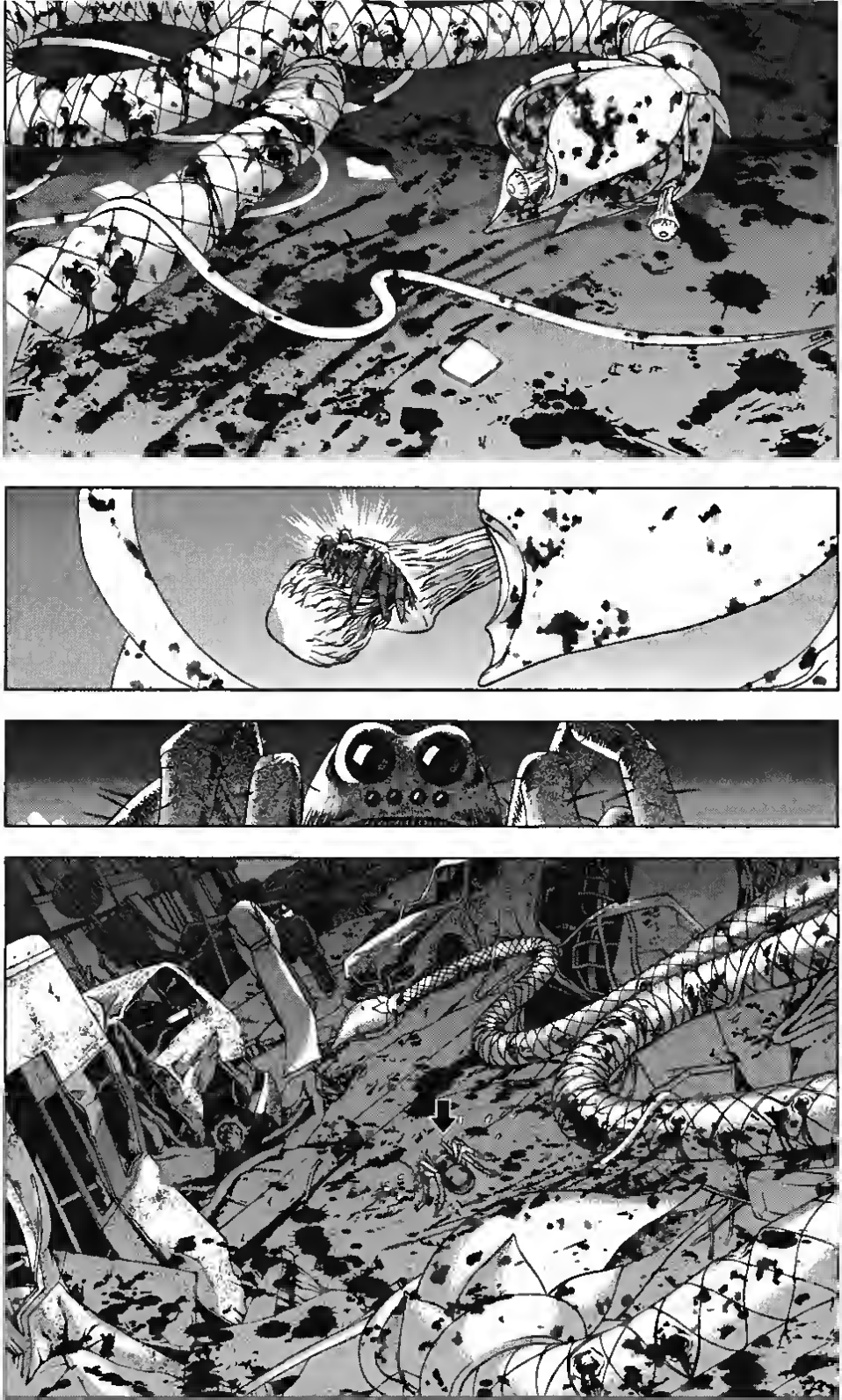
IF YOU PERISH IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE, YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO WANDER FOREVER...




SHE'S PROBABLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THEM AGAIN. MAYBE WHAT I DID WAS CRUEL...

WOMEN ARE SO FOOLISH. I DON'T UNDER-STAND THEM...
YOU HAVE A *LOT* TO LEARN.

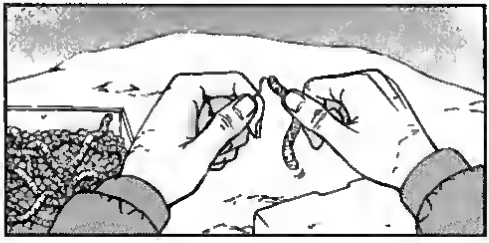
IS THAT A FACT?
YES, IT IS.



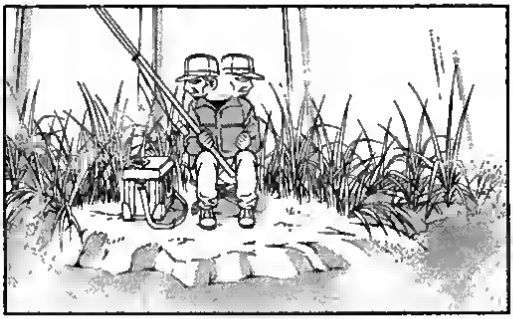
*note: "Orochi" means "large serpent." It is likely a reference to *Yamata no Orochi*, a mythical eight-headed serpent.

THERE'S A LOTTA FOG ON THE RIVER AGAIN THIS MORNIN'.

WELL, FOG'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH FISH!

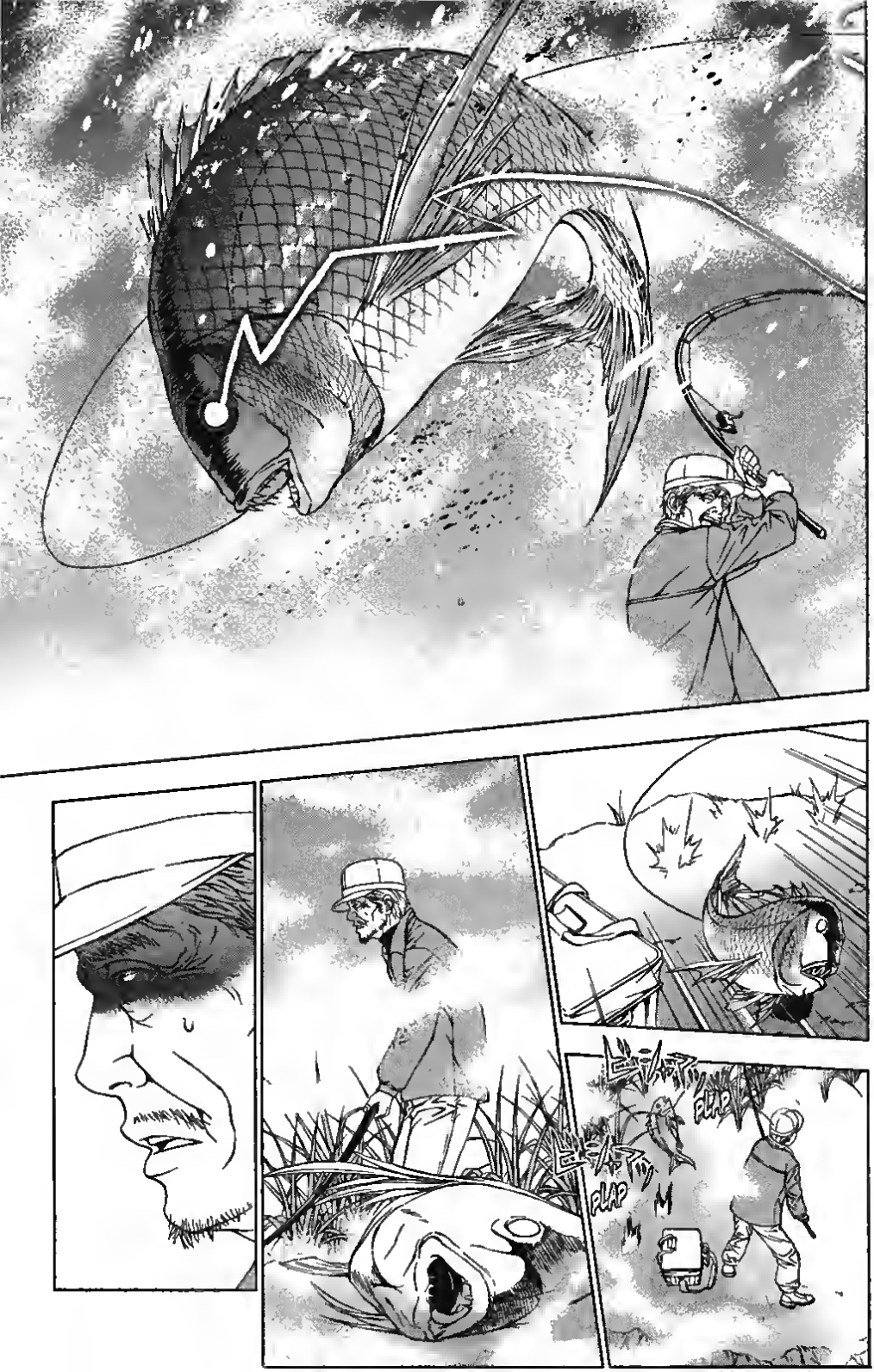


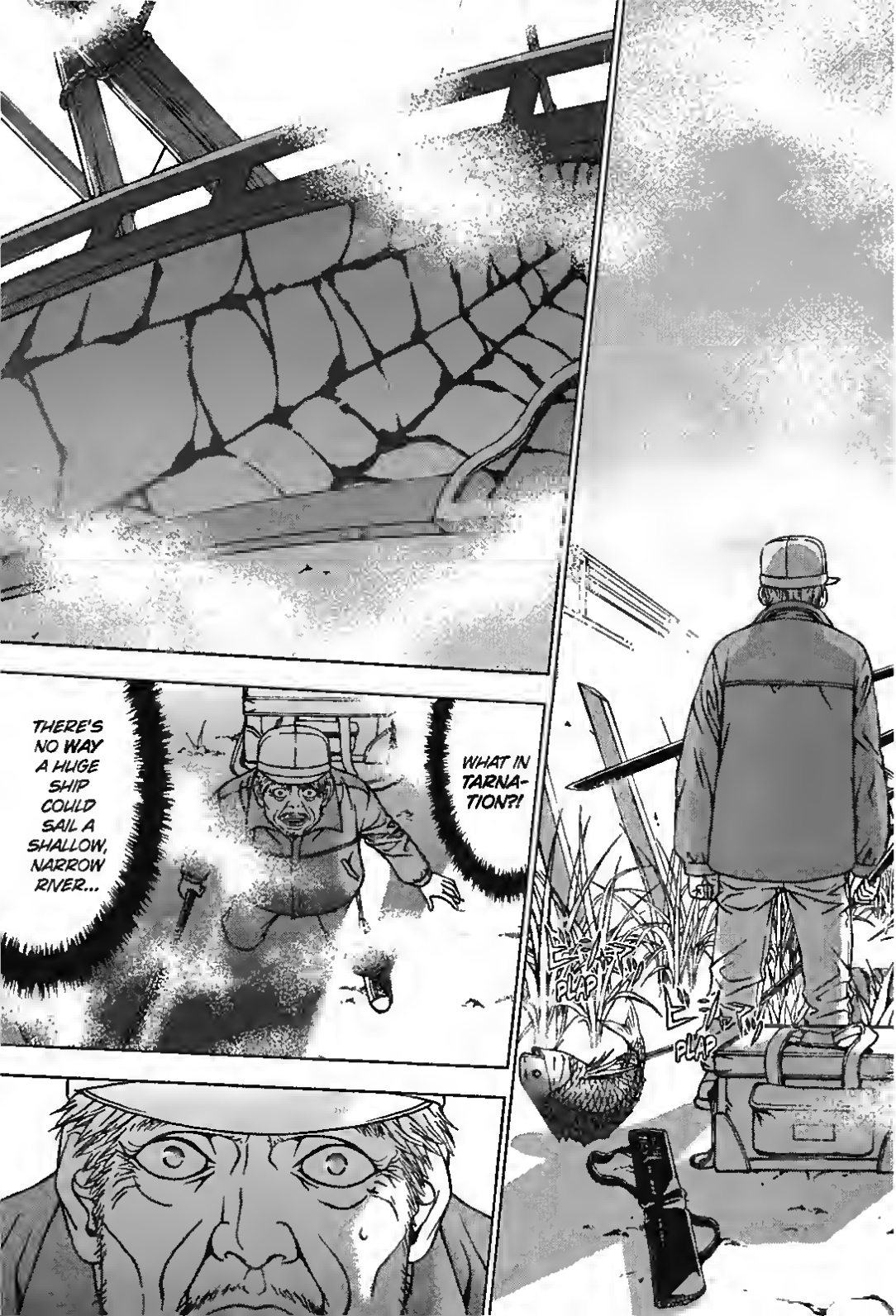
THIS IS MY OWN *SECRET* FISHIN' HOLE.



POP
CAN'T SEE A THING IN THIS FOG, BUT THAT'S OKAY, 'CALISE I'M AN OLD HAND AT THIS.
MAYBE I'LL EARN ME SOME MORE POCKET MONEY TODAY.
BLASH
GOT ONE!!

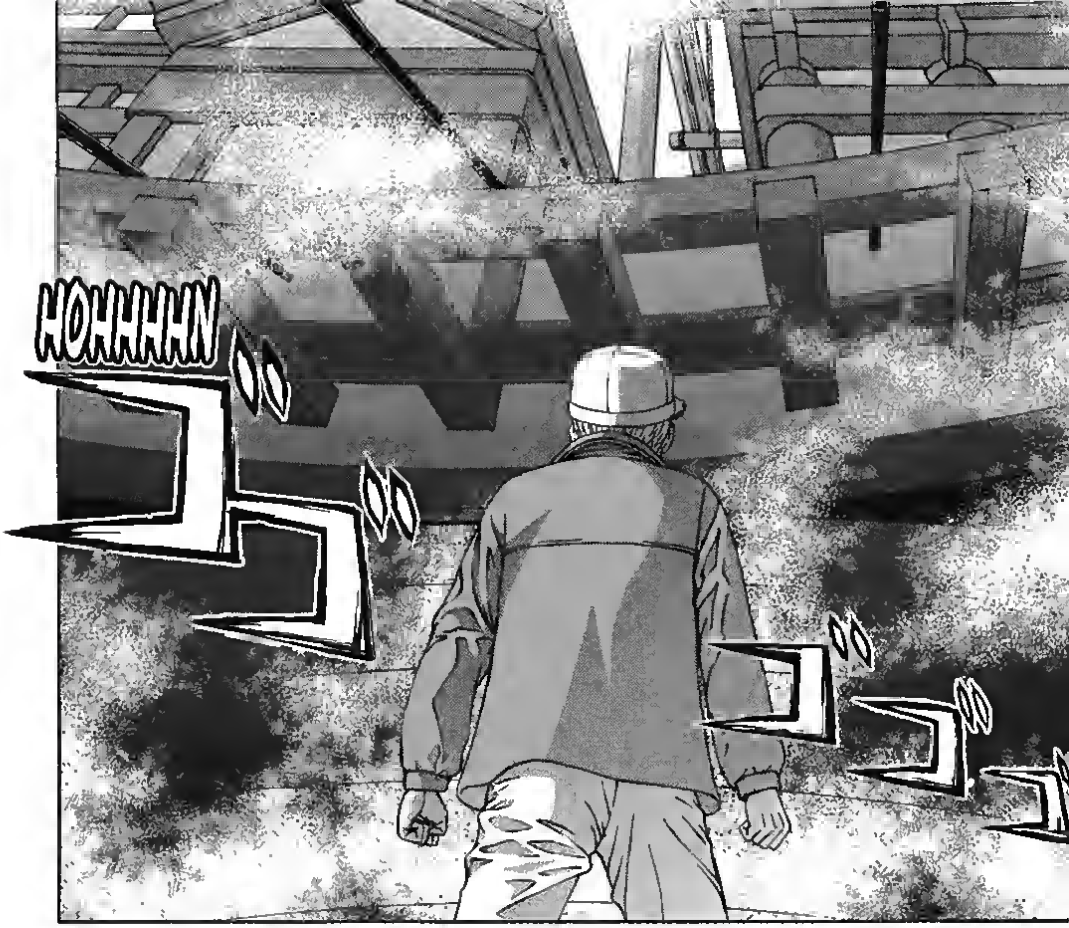
HOW'S HE SO STRONG?! DID I HOOK JAWS OR SOMETHIN'?!
HWOHHH!! S'BOUT TO TAKE THE SKIN RIGHT OFF MY HANDS!!
IT'S JUST LIKE...
HE... HE KEEPS RUNNIN' IN JUST ONE DIRECTION...
JUST GIVE UUUP!!
LIKE HE'S TRYIN' TO GET AWAY FROM SOMETHIN' ELSE!
FLASSH
FLASSH

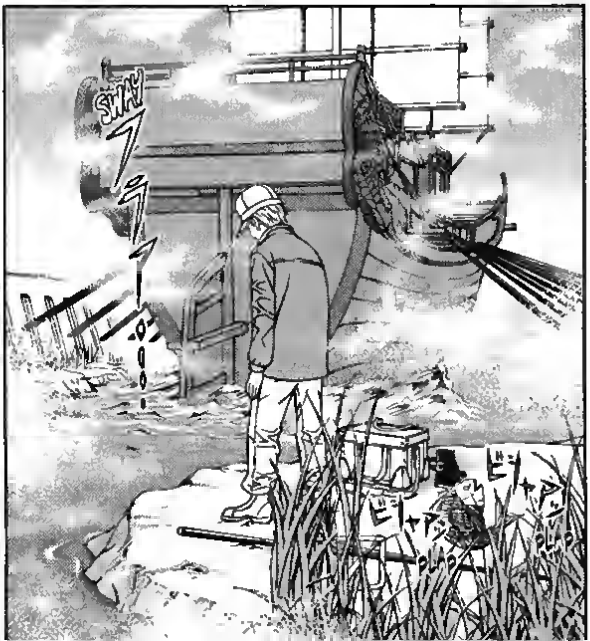

FLAP
FLAP


THERE'S NO WAY A HUGE SHIP COULD SAIL A SHALLOW, NARROW RIVER...
WHAT IN TARNATION?!
PLAP
PLAP

D-DON'T COME 'ROUND HERE!!
THIS'S NO COUNTRY FOR A MAN LIKE YOU! YOU'RE TOO BEAUTIFUL!!

THIS'S AN ORDINARY LAND!! DON'T BRING CURSES AND CALAMITIES HERE!!
GO BACK!! GO BACK TO THE WORLD YOU WERE BORN IN!!

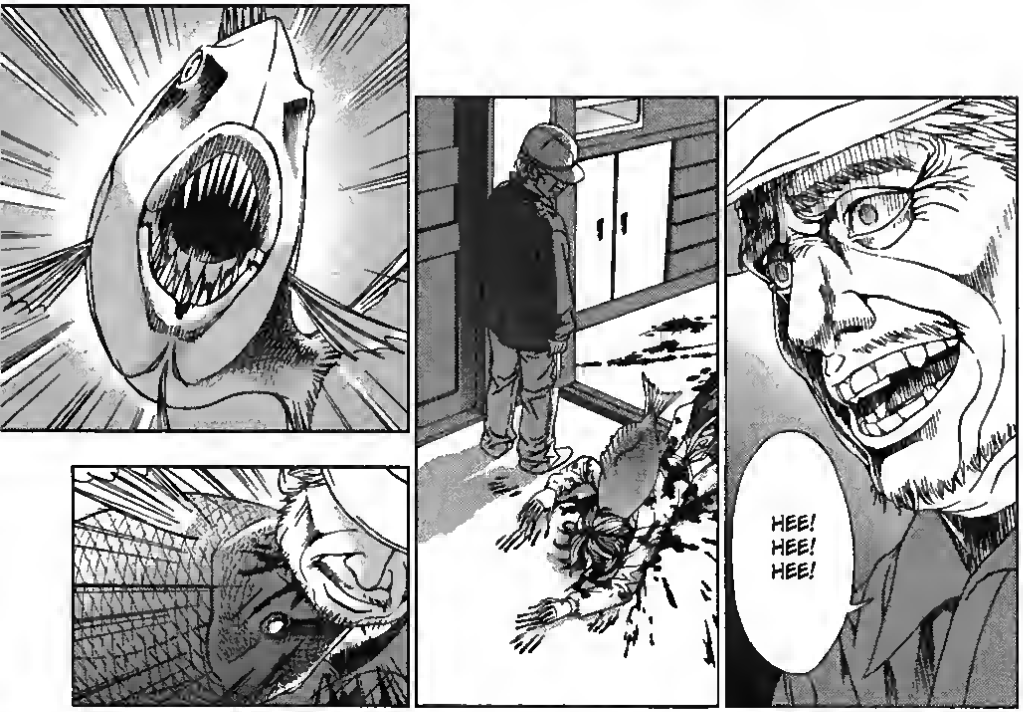

HOHHHHN


SWAY
ビャア
ビャア
PLOP
PLOP

...
WELL, YOU'RE BACK EARLY, POPS.
POPS----
HFF
I... I'LL MAKE SASHIMI WITH IT...
I CAUGHT ONE.
A BIG ONE.

SASHIMI.
YAY, SASHIMI!
WHAT'S FOR BREAK-FAST, HONEY ?
HNGYAHHH!!
CHOMP!
WAHHHH !!
EEEEK!!
THUNK

GRASSSH
POPS... HELP ME...
IGHHH!!
MY, WHAT A PITY...


HEE!
HEE!
HEE!

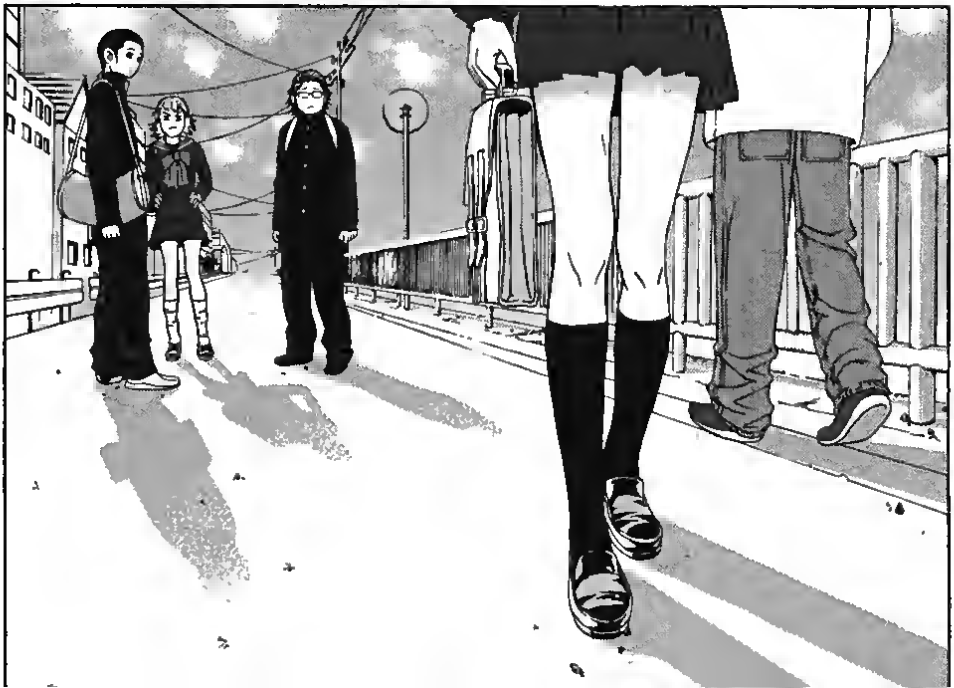
YOU WENT CRAZY TOO, HUH...? ANYONE WHO SEES A BEAUTIFUL FACE LIKE THAT...GETS CURSED...
IF THEY'RE ALIVE... THEY ALL CROAK. EVERY LAST ONE...

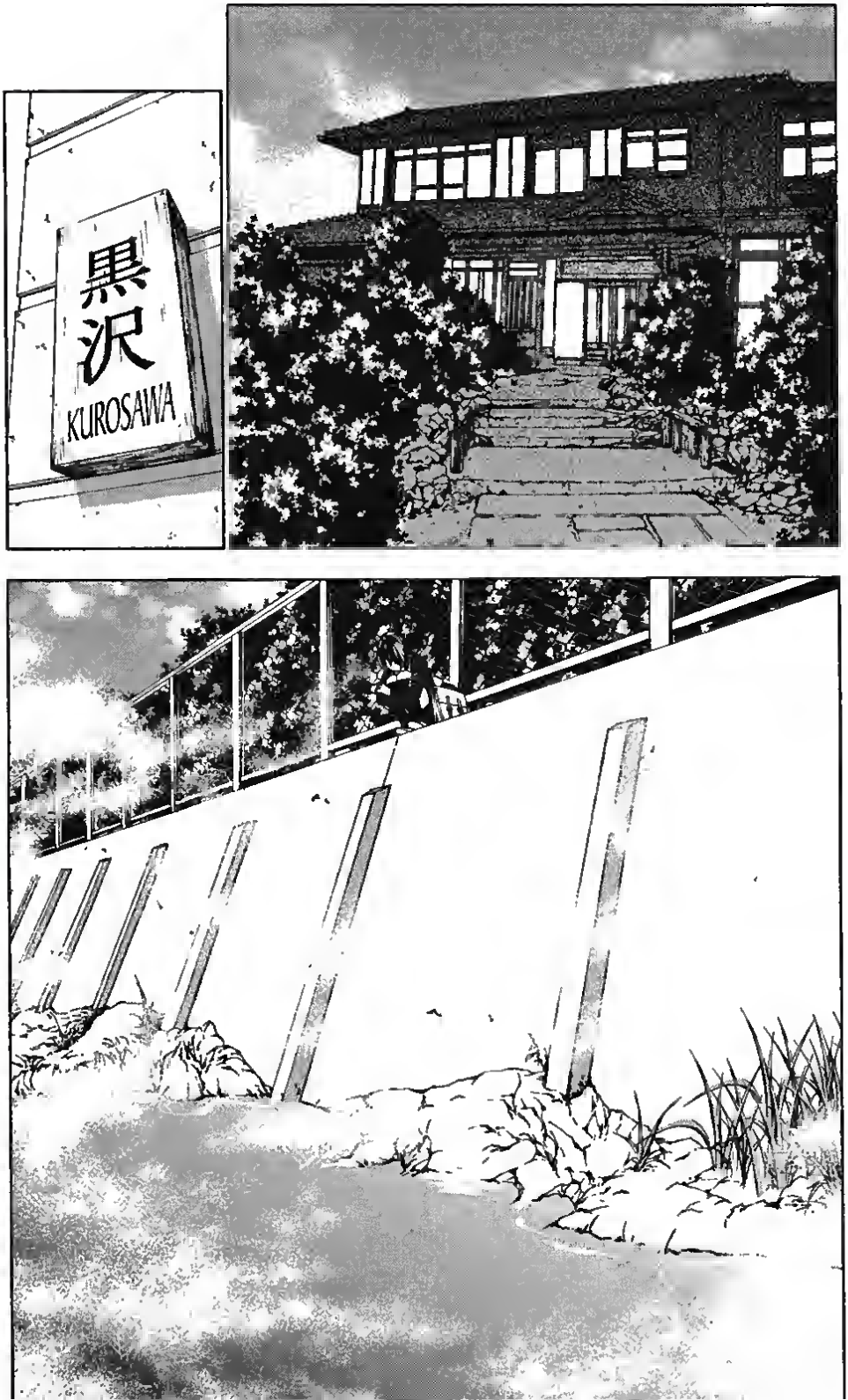
HUH?! A BIG BOAT?!
YOU SAY IT WAS GOING UPSTREAM ON THE OROCHI?!
THAT'S THE THIRD ONE OF THOSE.
MAN... WHAT A LOAD OF GARBAGE.
NHK

KUROSAWA GOT BULLIED AGAIN...
HEY, IT HAPPENS.
WELL, IT DOES WHEN ALL THE GUYS THINK YOU'RE *THAT* CUTE.

HEY MIDORI KUROSAWA, YOUR FAMILY'S THE *LAUGHING* FACE FAMILY!!
WHY SHOULD I?! IT'S THE TRUTH!

THAT'S NOT THE *ONLY* REASON!
HEY--- CUT IT OUT.



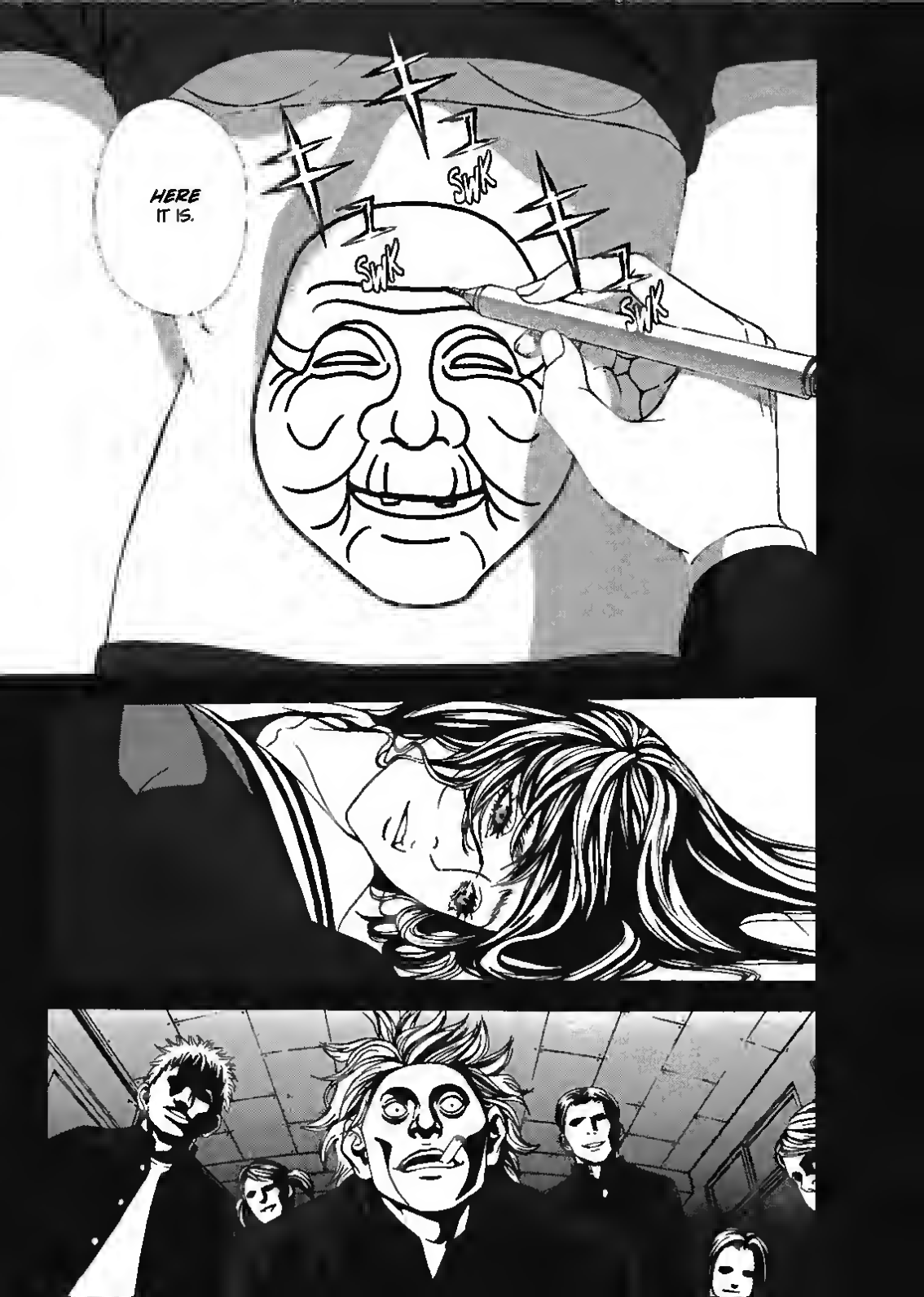

黒沢
KUROSAWA

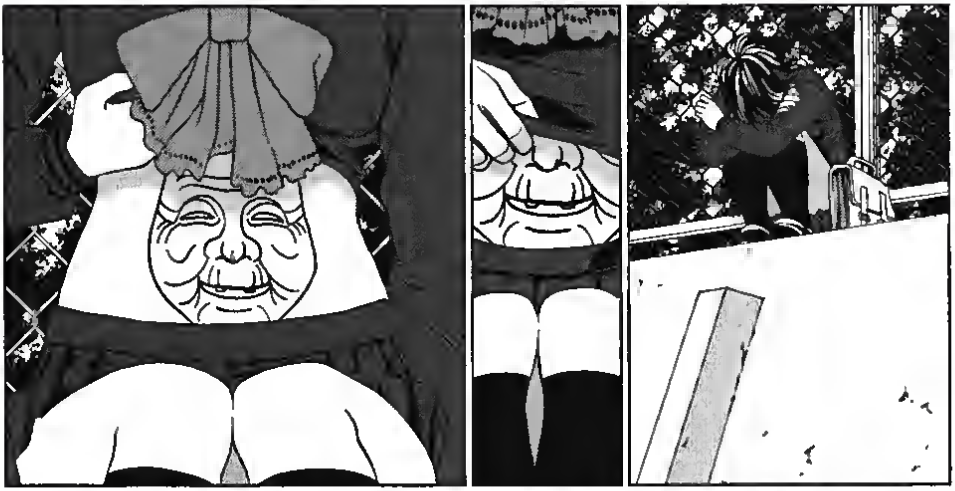
MAYBE I WON'T GET BULLIED ANYMORE IF I JUST FALL IN HERE AND DIE...
SECONDARY SCHOOL
THE LAUGHING FACE FAMILY!

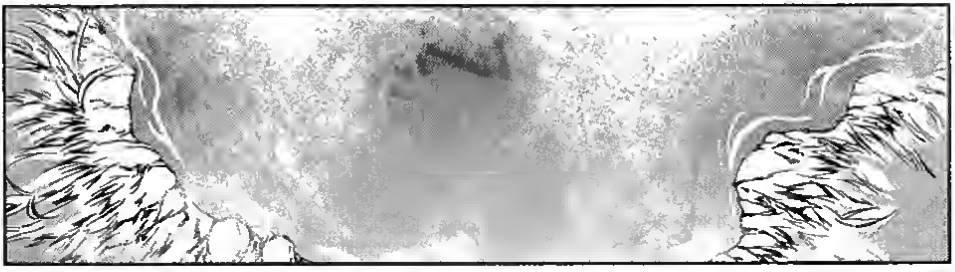
SURE. YOU'RE KINDA PRETTY NOW. BUT SOON YOU'LL HAVE THE LAUGHING FACE, TOO!
IT'LL BE CACKLING AWAY RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR BELLY.
YEAH! LET'S HAVE OURSELVES A LOOK-SEE!
GRAB
GRAB
SHOVE
AGHH!!

HEHEHEH...
DON'T LOOK AT ME!!

I SEE IT RIGHT THERE, DON'T YOU?
OH, YEAHHH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
HUH... NOTHIN'S THERE. WHERE COULD THE *LAUGHING FACE* HAVE GONE?


HERE IT IS.
SWK
SWK
SWK





HIS HEADDRESS AND CLOTHES MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE A HEIAN-PERIOD ARISTOCRAT I SAW IN A PICTURE BOOK WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
AND HIS FACE IS SO BEAUTIFUL ...!

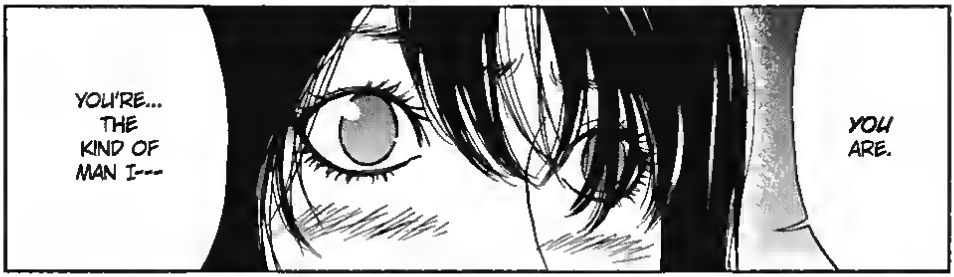
THAT'S NO HUMAN FACE! IT'S THOUSANDS OF TIMES MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE HUMAN WORLD... BUT IT WAS BORN IN A WORLD A MILLION TIMES MORE TERRIBLE!
I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM!

YANK
BLASSH

WHO ARE YOU...?

AKAMUSHI FUJIWARA.

...WHAT IS?
SO... BEAUTIFUL---

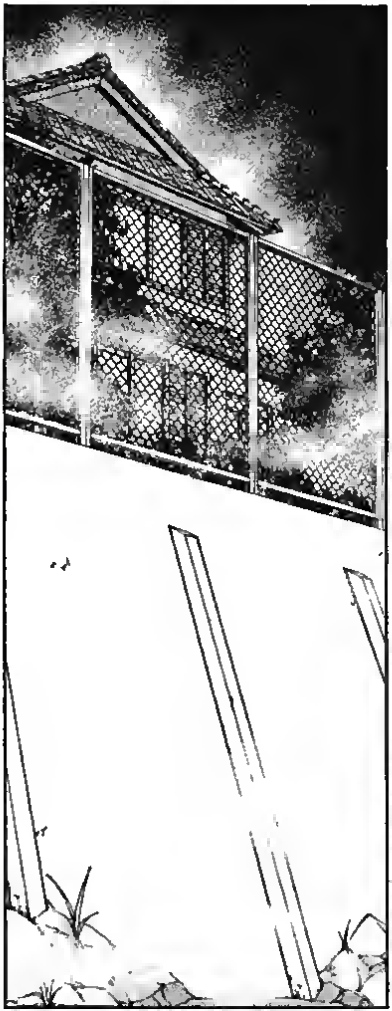

YOU'RE... THE KIND OF MAN I---
YOU ARE.

I WANT TO BE YOUR BRIDE!!

十、悪を集めた顔
10. A FACE OF CONCENTRATED EVIL

I WANT TO BE YOUR BRIDE!!

I'M SORRY TO SAY, I WON'T BE TAKING A WIFE... NOT A HUMAN WIFE, ANYWAY.



I WAS ATTRACTED FROM ACROSS THE SEA BY A STRONG POWER. THAT IS WHY I SAILED UP THIS RIVER... BUT, HMM... YOU SEEM TO BE A PART OF IT.
ME? A PART OF WHAT?

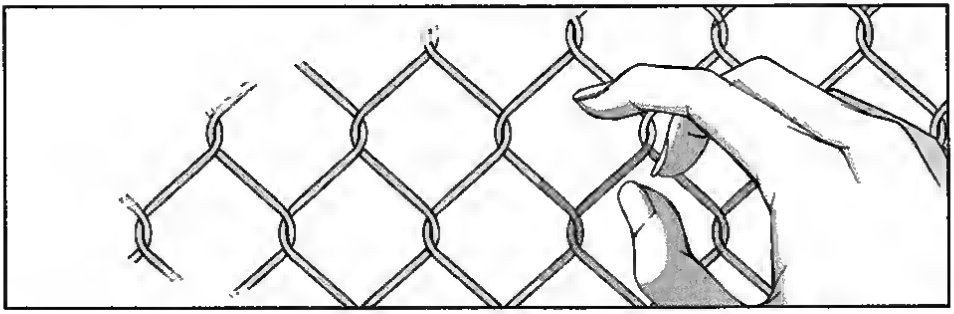
THE THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT KNOW, YOU MUSTN'T LEARN. IF YOU SHOULD KNOW THEM, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IN TIME.

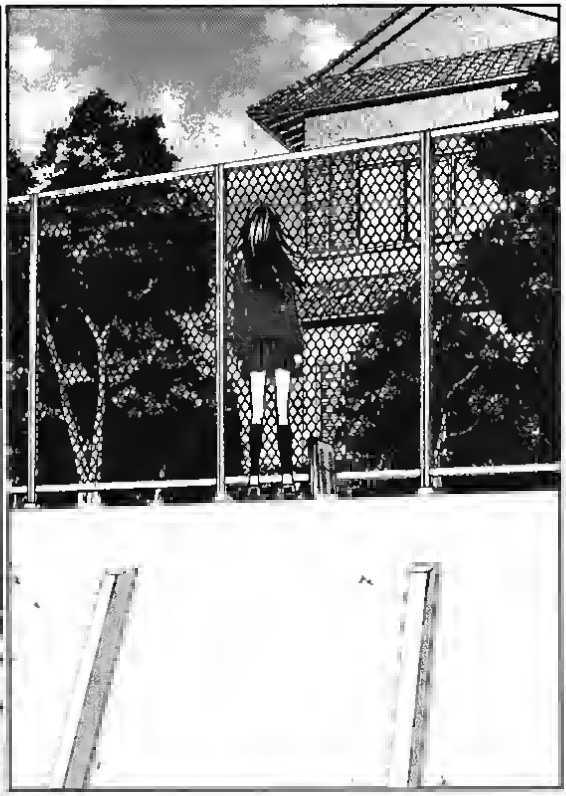
I STOPPED YOU FROM DROWNING BECAUSE I HAVE QUESTIONS FOR YOU...
THAT HOUSE IS WHAT'S CALLING TO ME. ARE YOU OF THAT HOUSE, GIRL?
YES.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
MIDORI--- MIDORI KUROSAWA.
HM. HOW OLD ARE YOU?
THIRTEEN--- I'M IN SEVENTH GRADE.
OH... UM...!

WOW, I'M TALKING TO THIS BEAUTIFUL MAN...!
TELL ME, GIRL--- WHY DID YOU THROW YOURSELF IN?
BUT... I'M AFRAID TO DIE. I'VE ALWAYS HESITATED...
BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN BULLIED... AND I ALWAYS WILL BE...
ドクン BATHUMP
ドクン BATHUMP

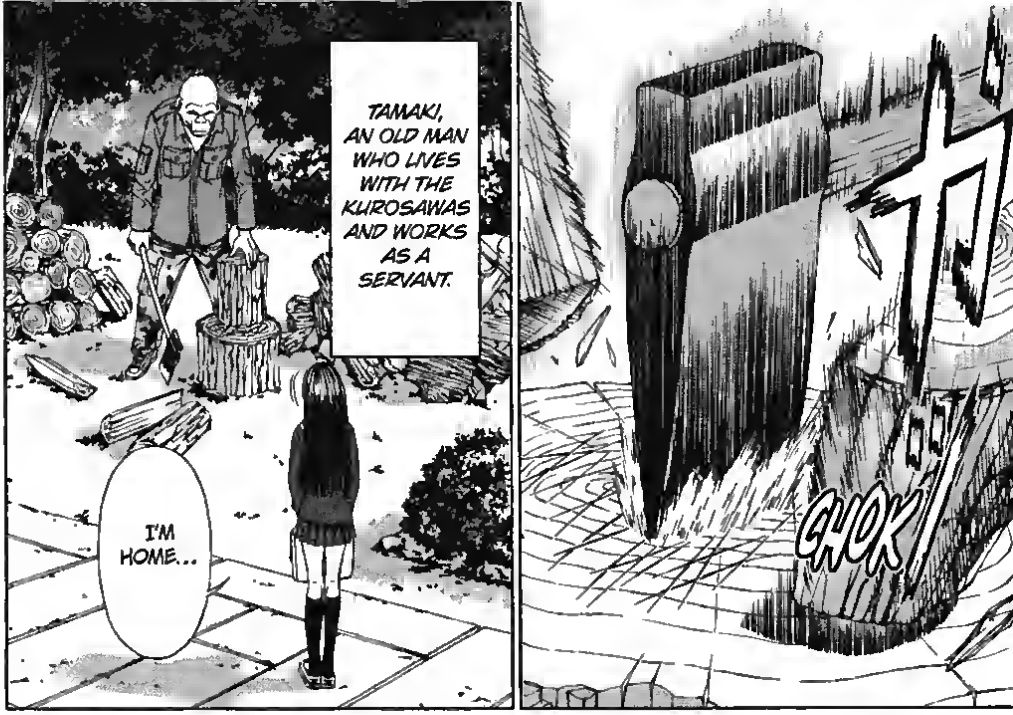
AND THEN I SAW YOU. AND SO--- I JUST WANTED TO BE NEXT TO YOU...
HM... WHY ARE YOU BULLIED?
LAUGHING FACE?
YEAH... YOU SEE---
MIDORI!!!!
BECAUSE MY FAMILY'S PART OF THE LAUGHING FACE LINEAGE.

MIDORI!!!!
!!
THAT'S MY MOM.
FLASH





AKAMUSHI...


TAMAKI, AN OLD MAN WHO LIVES WITH THE KUROSAWAS AND WORKS AS A SERVANT.
I'M HOME...
CHOK!!

MIDORI! MIDO!!!
C- COMING!
HEY, COMING THROUGH!
I'M SORRY!
KAZUE-- THE KUROSAWAS' HOUSE-KEEPER.

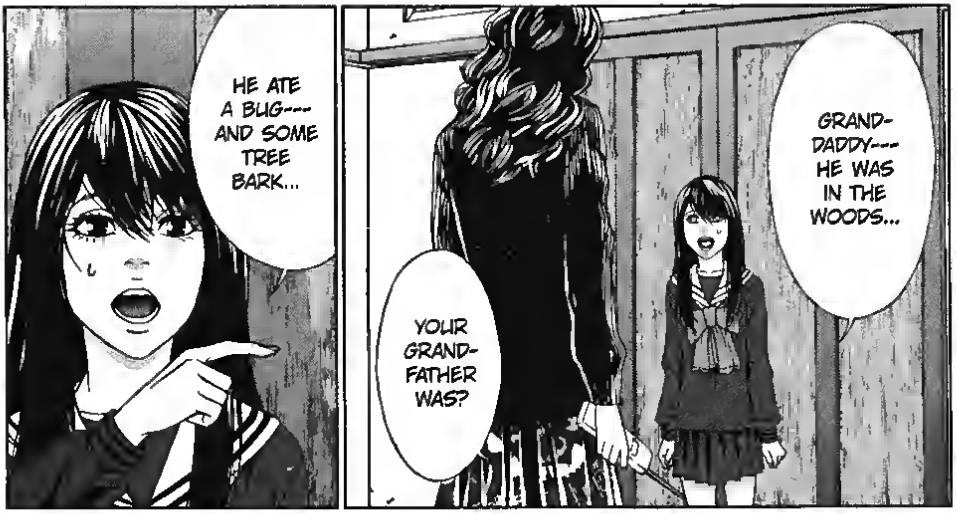
GRAND-DADDY?
IS HE--- EATING A BUG...?

SHRRIP
KRNCH
KRNCH
...!!

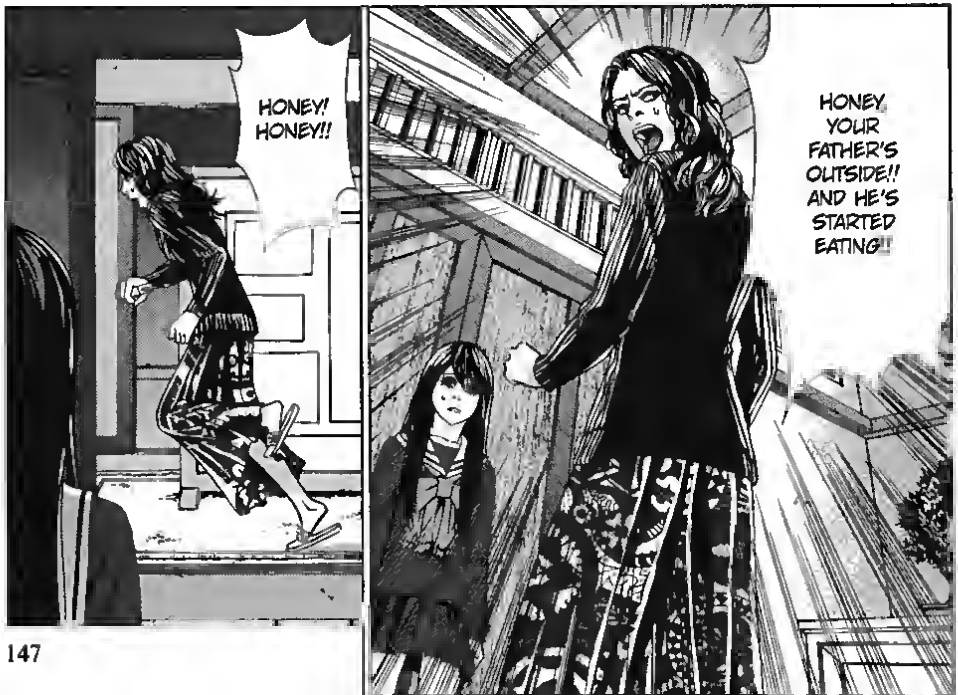
カチャン
SHUNK
バタン
TUNK
IT CAN'T BE...
HAHH
ハア
ハア
HAHH

SCATTER
SCATTER
EEK!
GASSSH

WHAT DID YOU DO AT SCHOOL?! I GOT A CALL FROM YOUR TEACHER, MR. YAJIMA!!

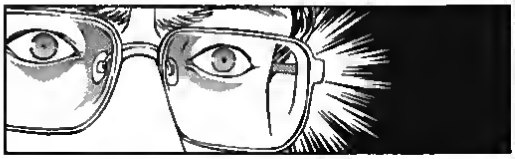

HE ATE A BUG--- AND SOME TREE BARK...
GRAND-DADDY--- HE WAS IN THE WOODS...
YOUR GRAND-FATHER WAS?

YEAH!
IS THAT TRUE?

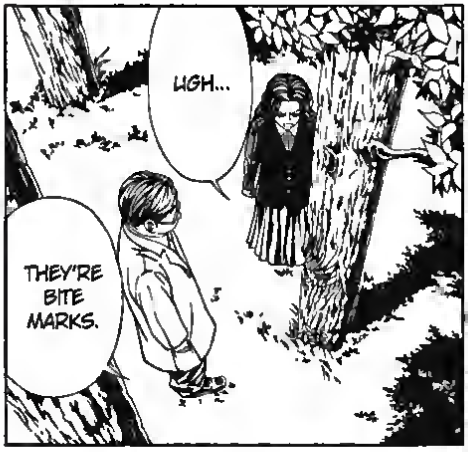

HONEY! HONEY!!
HONEY, YOUR FATHER'S OUTSIDE!! AND HE'S STARTED EATING!!

DAD'S NOT IN THE OUT-BUILDING!! WHERE'D YOU SEE HIM?!
OUTSIDE, IN THE WOODS TO THE RIGHT.
OKAY ...
LOCK THE DOOR, AND STAY IN YOUR ROOM!
WHY'D YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIM, STUPID?!
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!

DAAAD!!



DAAAD!!


UGH...
THEY'RE BITE MARKS.

OVER THERE!!

A DOG DIDN'T DO THIS?
NO--- THESE WERE HUMAN TEETH...

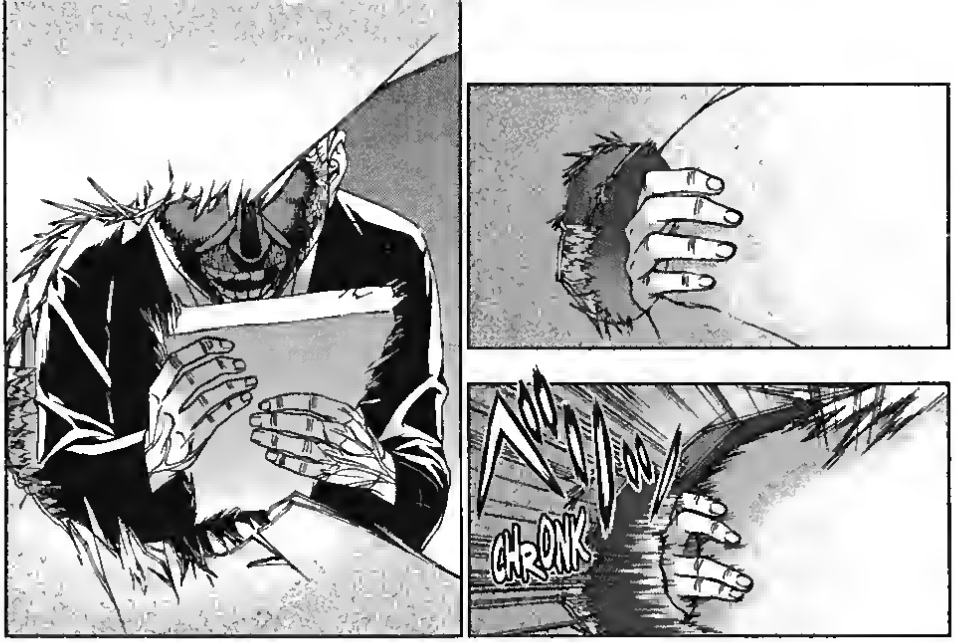
I MANAGED TO KEEP THIS FROM HAPPENING FOR TEN YEARS...
...BUT I GUESS THE DRUG I CONCOCTED DIDN'T WORK AFTER ALL.
---OH YEAH, SO WHERE IS DAD?!

TOMORROW...
IT STARTS
ALL OVER
AGAIN...

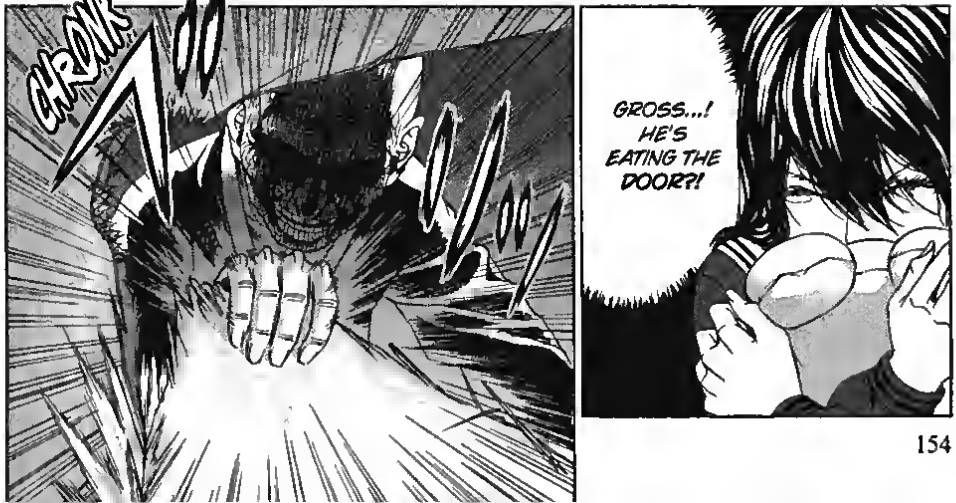
WHO'S THERE ?!
WHAM
IT'S OKAY.. OUR HOUSEKEEPER KAZUE WAS THE GRAND CHAMPION OF THE VILLAGE'S SUMO TOURNAMENT, AND OLD MR. TAMAKI'S A THIRD-DEGREE BLACK BELT IN JUDO. I'LL JUST CALL FOR HELP IF I NEED TO...
WHAT THE...? THEY SOUND REALLY STRONG--- DON'T TELL ME IT'S...
WHAM
WHAM

KRAK

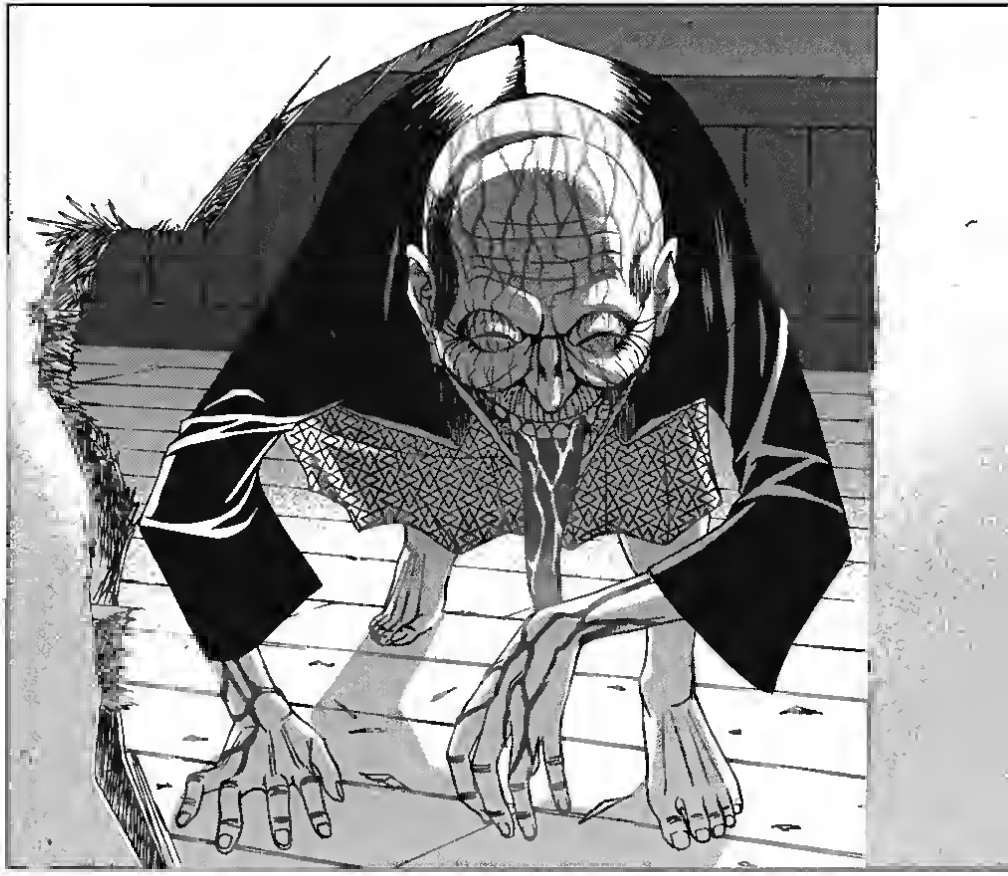
GRAND-
DADDY?!


CHRONK

CHOMP
CHOMP


CHRONK
GROSS...! HE'S EATING THE DOOR?!

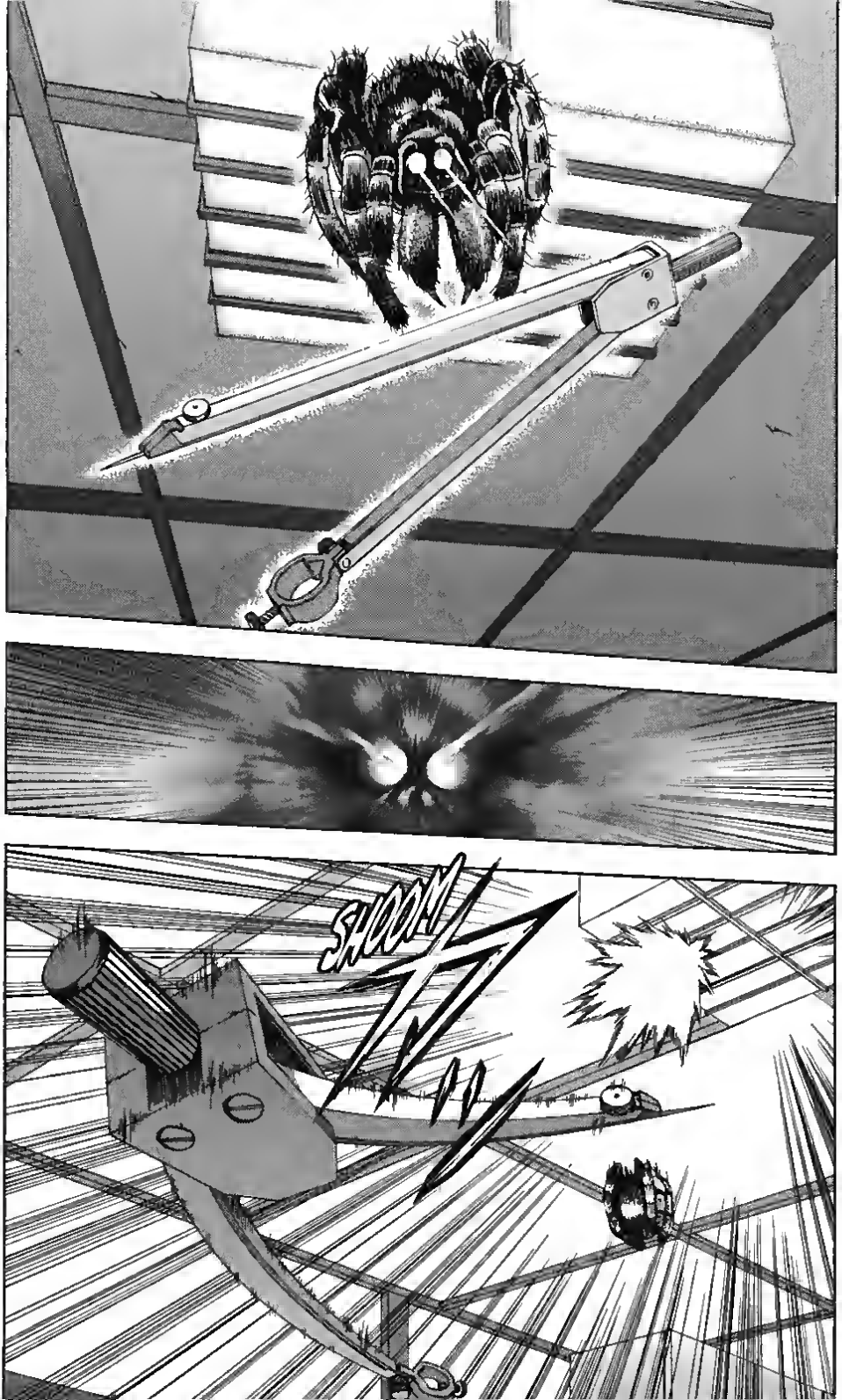
AND HE'S DOING IT FAST...
CHOMP
CHOMP
HE'S... LOOKING AT ME?!
PLOP



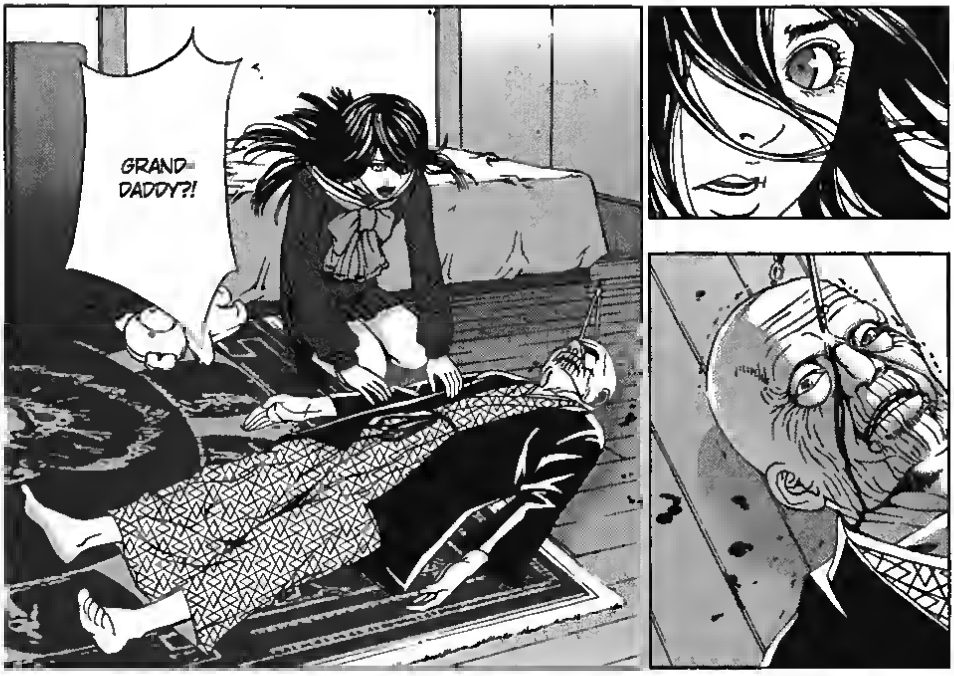
THE LAUGHING FACE IS "A FACE OF CONCENTRATED HUMAN EVIL."
THE LAUGHING FACE!!!
AND IT'S WEARING GRANDDADDY'S PAJAMAS...!!
IT LOOKS SO REPULSIVE ...!!
SOME-BODY, HELP!!

KA-OOO
WHOOK
HEHEHEH.

STAY AWAY...
STAY AWAY!!

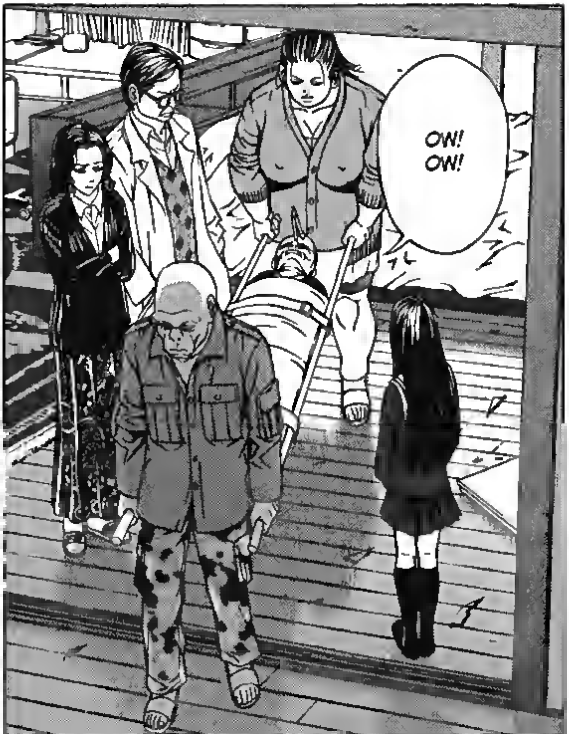

SHOOM

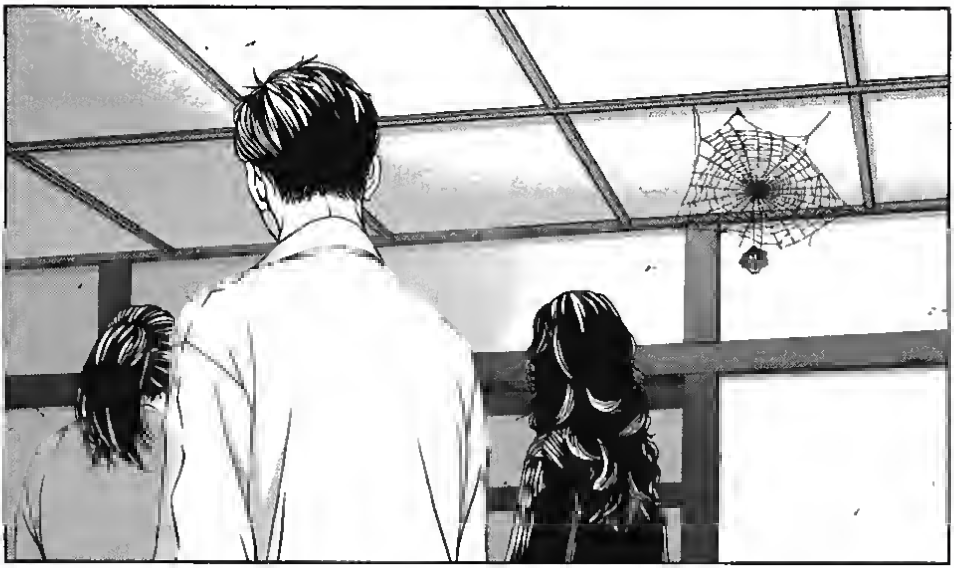
CHNK
EGYAHHHH!!


GRAND-DADDY?!

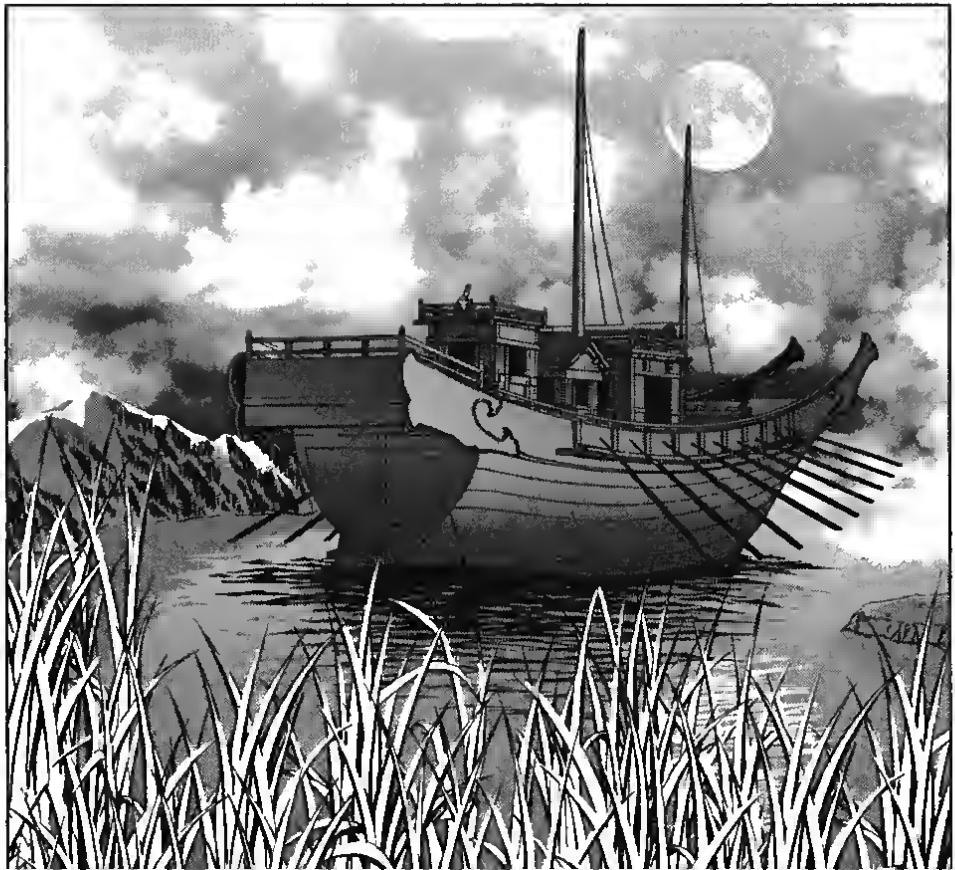
MIDORI!!!... WHAT'D YOU... DOOOO...? I CAN'T... I CAN'T PULL OUT THE COMPAAAASS.

MIDORIII, IT HURRRTS!

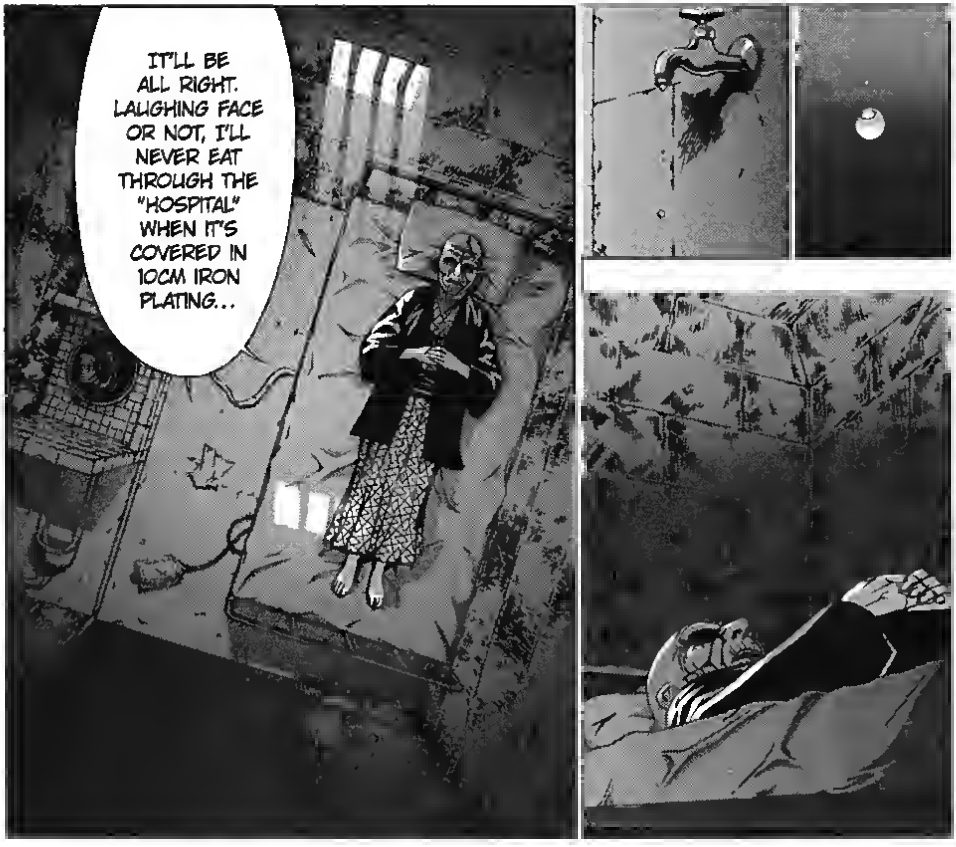

OW! OW!



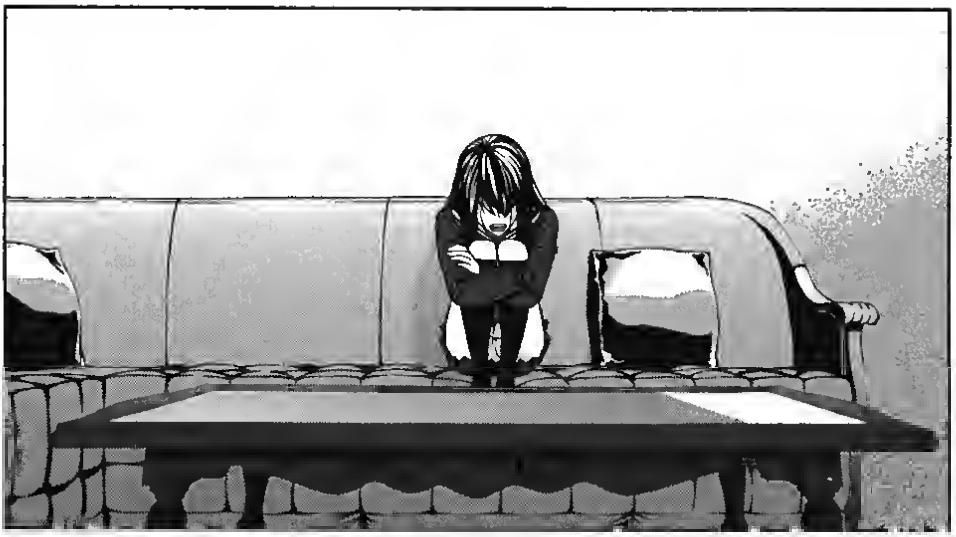
WHAT A
DELIGHTFUL
HOUSEHOLD

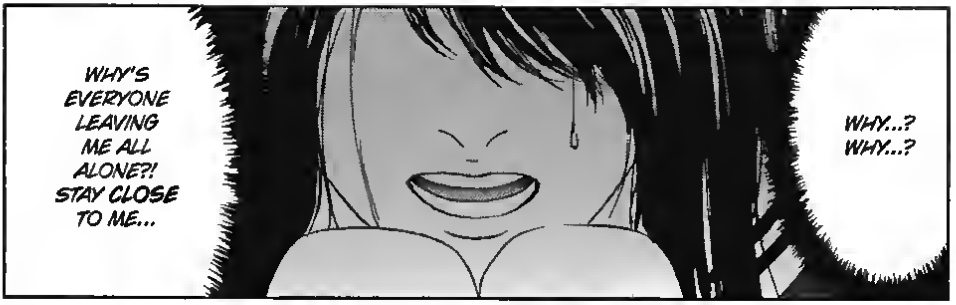


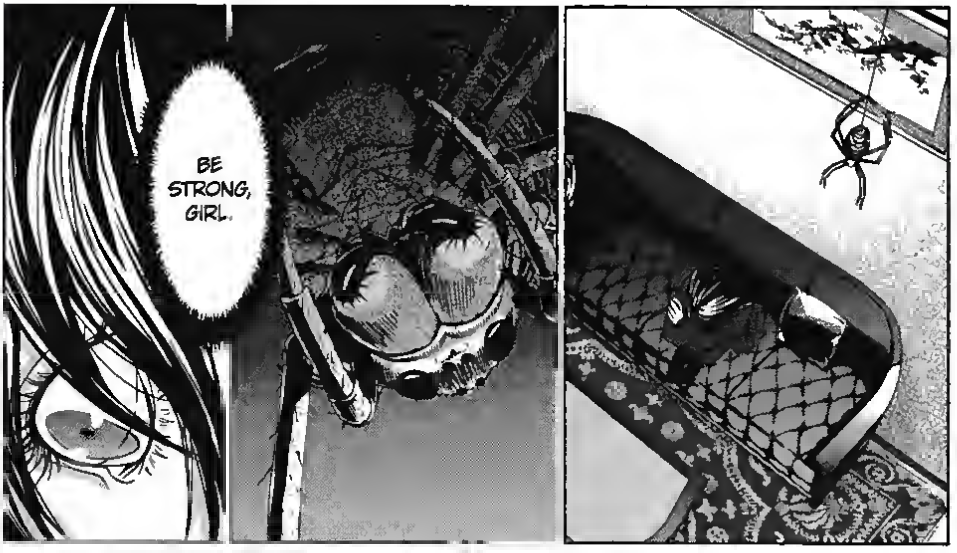
11. HOUSECALL
十一、訪問



DON'T WORRY, MIDORI. I JUST HAVE URGENT BUSINESS.
HN... HN!
UH, YES MA'AM.
PLEASE CLEAN UP THE MESS, KAZUE.




WHY'S EVERYONE LEAVING ME ALL ALONE?! STAY CLOSE TO ME...
WHY...? WHY...?


BE STRONG, GIRL.

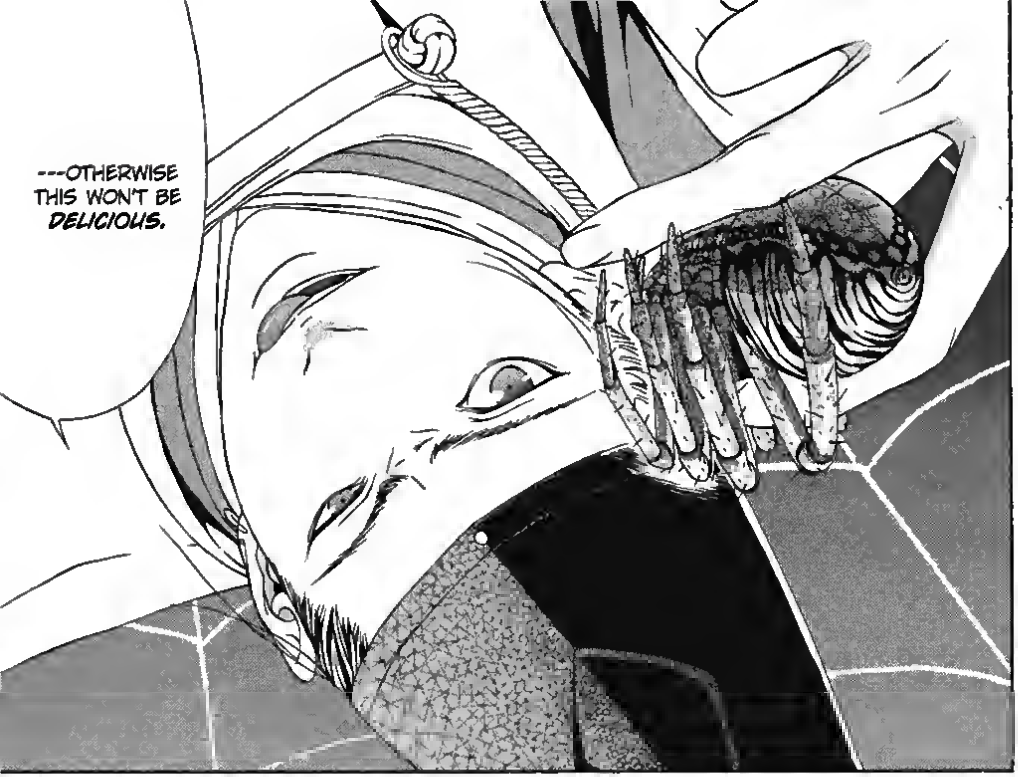
AKAMUSHI ?!

IT'S NOT ABOUT "LETTING." YOU MUST BE STRONG ON YOUR OWN AND NOT DEPEND ON OTHERS.
---YOU'LL LET ME BE YOUR BRIDE IF I *AM* STRONG?!
YOU CAN *NEVER* BE MY BRIDE IF YOU AREN'T STRONG.

I WILL BE STRONG!

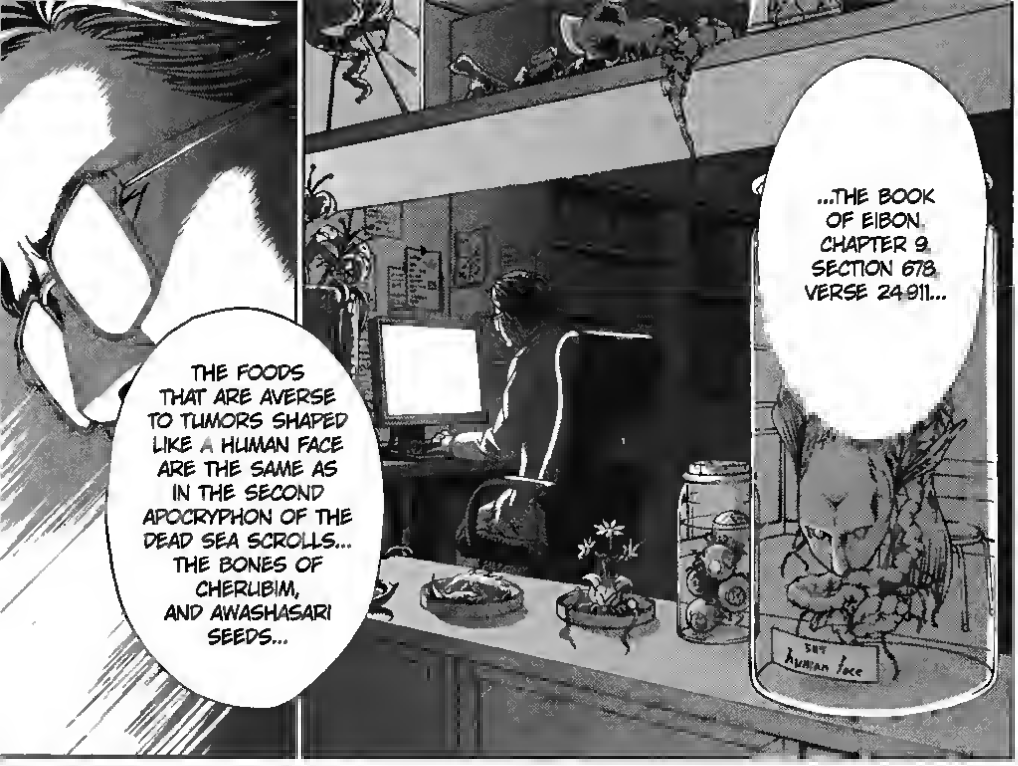
I'LL GET TOUGHER, JUST YOU WATCH!! I WON'T LET LAUGHING FACE OR THE BULLIES GET TO ME ANYMORE!!

THAT'S RIGHT. BE STRONG, MY BRIDE.

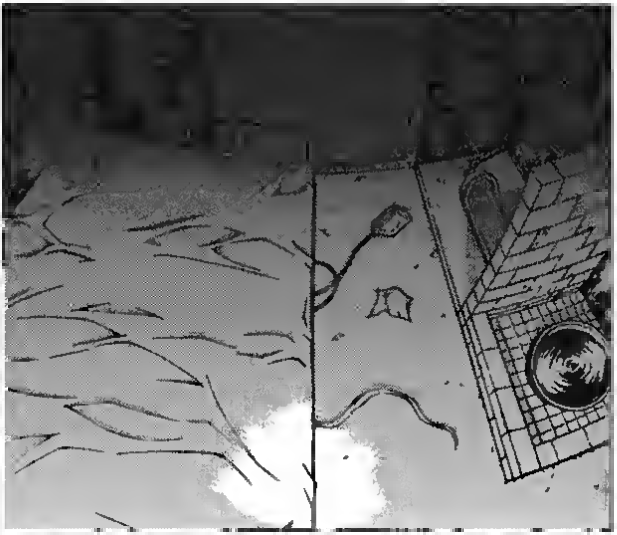

---OTHERWISE THIS WON'T BE *DELICIOUS.*

LOOKS LIKE *YOU'RE* ENJOYING YOURSELF...

NOTHING COULD BE MORE FUN...


THE FOODS THAT ARE AVERSE TO TUMORS SHAPED LIKE A HUMAN FACE ARE THE SAME AS IN THE SECOND APOCRYPHON OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS... THE BONES OF CHERUBIM, AND AWASHASARI SEEDS...
...THE BOOK OF EIBON. CHAPTER 9. SECTION 678. VERSE 24911...
Human face

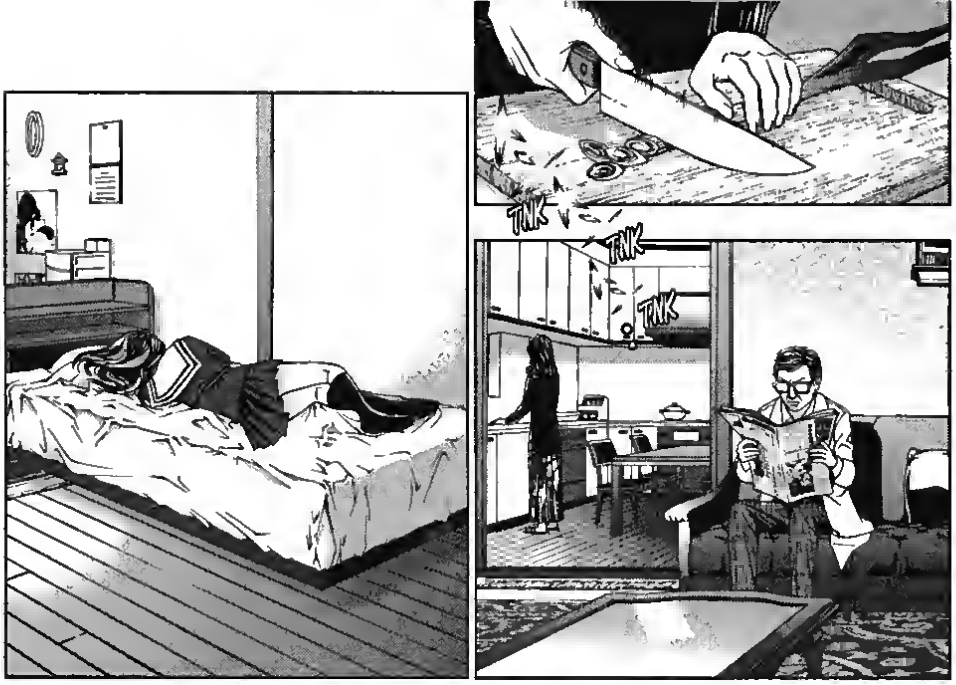
WHERE IS HE?
POSH



INTERESTING. IT CERTAINLY *WAS* WORTH BEING SUMMONED HERE.

...

I CAN'T STIR UNTIL I SEE HOW THIS PLAYS OUT.
HOW IT *PLAYS OUT?*
THE ONLY THINGS YOUR EYES WILL SEE IN THE END ARE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION! WHAT WILL THE SPIDER'S FANGS DEVOUR?!


TNK
TNK
TNK

HNGYAHHHH!!
OH, AKAMUSHI... I MISS YOU.

MOMMM !!
MOM?
AHHHHH!

WHAT'S THIS DOING ON MY STOMACH...?!

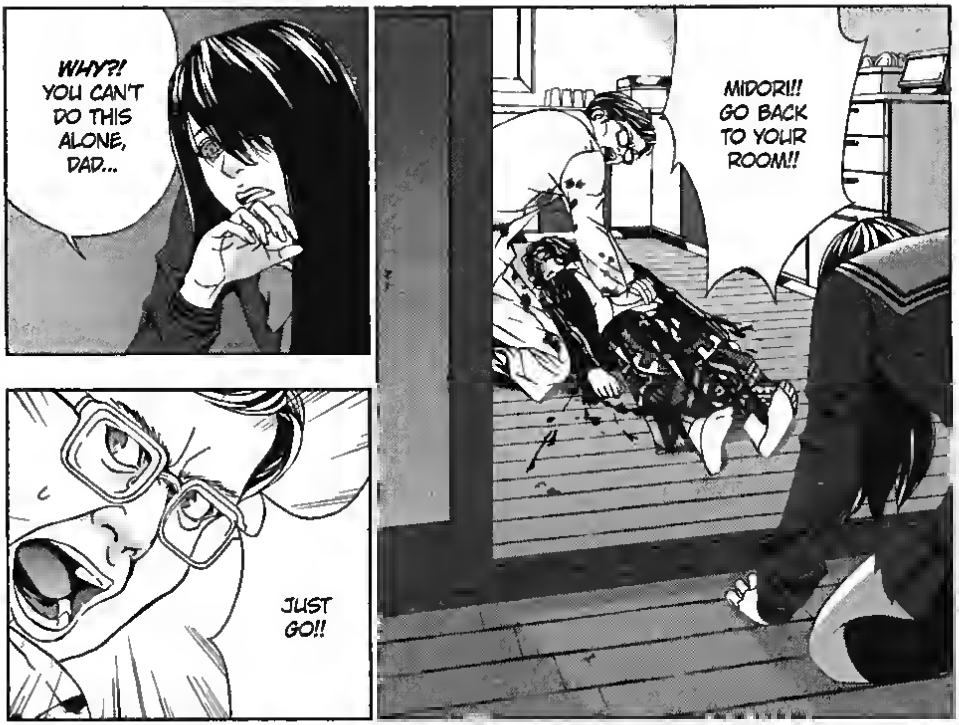
AUGHHHHHH!!

RYOUKO, STOP!!
CHNK
IIT

SPEAK TO ME!!
WHAT DO WE DO, DAD?!

HEE
HEEHEE
CALL DR. TAKEDA...
NO, HE'S BEEN AWAY IN OSAKA SINCE YESTERDAY... WHICH MEANS WE HAVE TO TREAT HER HERE!
HEEHEE
ULG!
HEE
HEE
HEE

HEE
HEEHEE
WHERE'S THAT LAUGHING COMING FROM...?!
HEEHEE
HEE
BLEGHHH!
IT'S SO DISGUSTING...!
HEE
HEEHEE

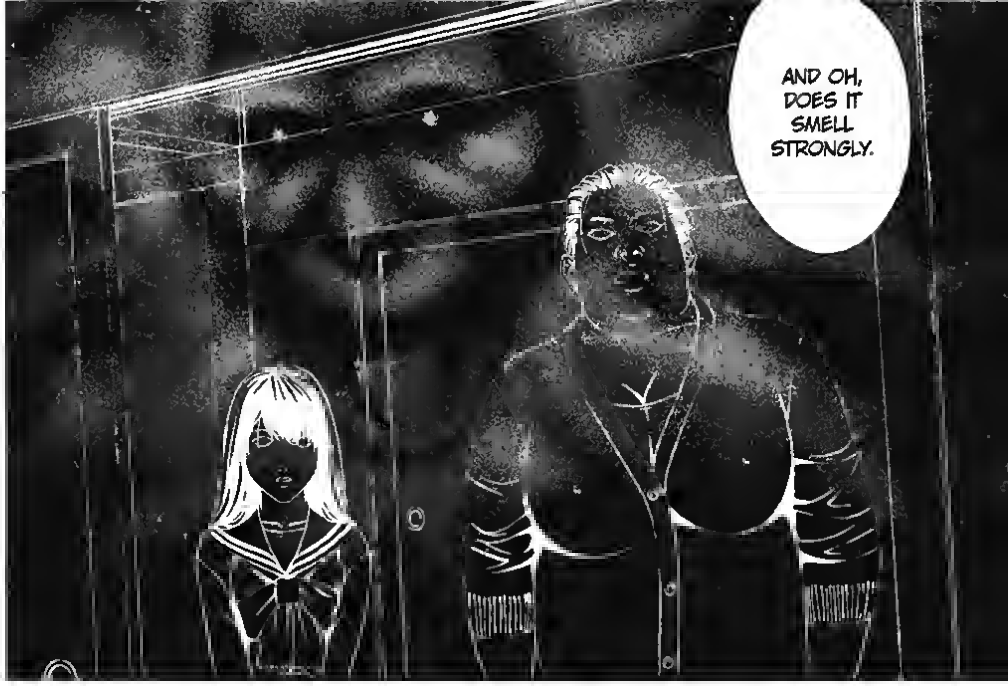

WHY?! YOU CAN'T DO THIS ALONE, DAD...
MIDORI!! GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!!
JUST GO!!

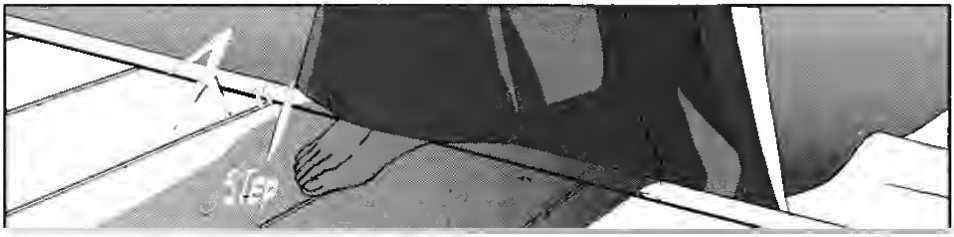
WHY'S THIS HAPPENING TO US?!
SOMEBODY HELP!!
DON'T DEPEND ON OTHERS.
BE STRONG ON YOUR OWN.
---I'LL TRY MY BEST, AKAMUSHI...!

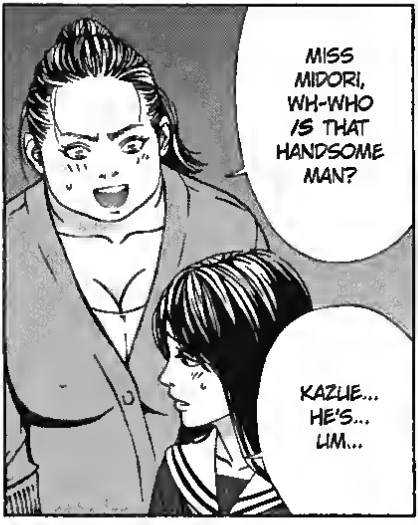
MOM JUST CUT UP HER STOMACH! WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT... SHOULD I---
BUT IT'S NOT EASY!
BUT...
BE STRONG.
THAT CAN'T BE! HE WOULDN'T BE HERE... NOT NOW...!
THINGS JUST DON'T TURN OUT LIKE THAT...!

AND ARE YOU TRYING YOUR BEST? 'TIS I, AKAMUSHI FUJIWARA.

TELL YOUR PARENTS THAT A TOURING PERFORMER, LEFT POOR BY TRAVELING EXPENSES, WISHES TO STAY THE NIGHT AS THEIR GUEST.
?
TOURING? TRAVELING EXPENSES?
WHY'S IT SO NOISY...?
WHA?
AHH, A SWEET SCENT I ENJOY...


AND OH, DOES IT SMELL STRONGLY.


STEP

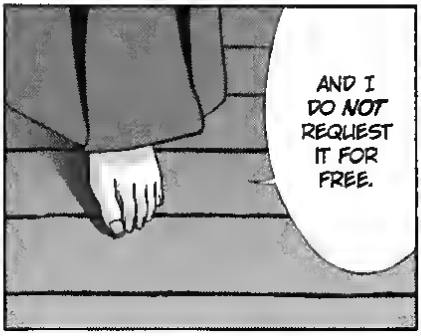

MISS MIDORI, WH-WHO IS THAT HANDSOME MAN?
KAZUE... HE'S... UM...

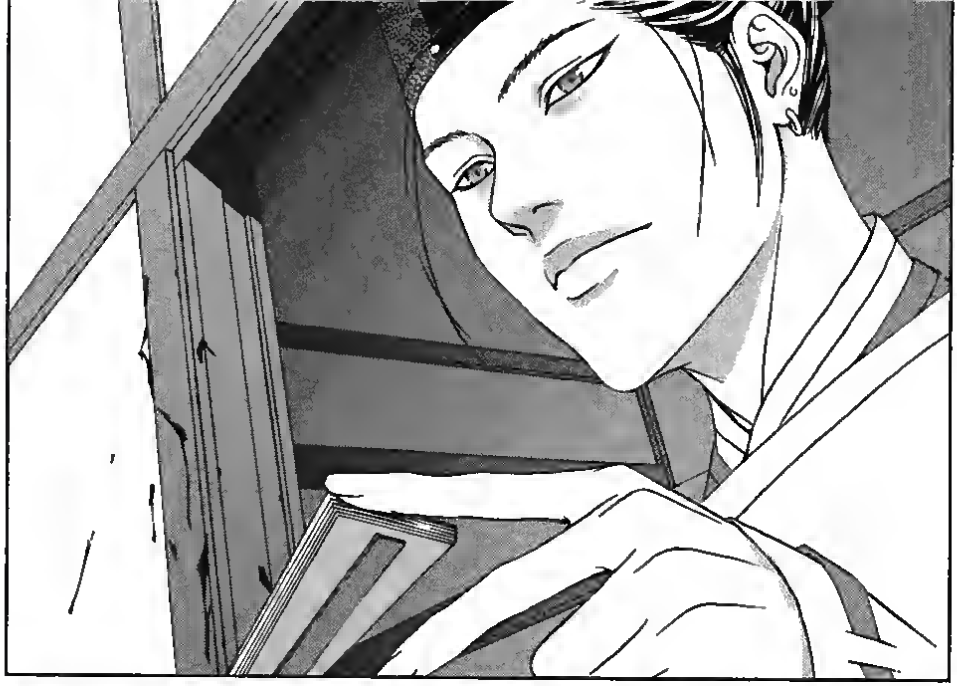
EGHHH! WHAT'S THAT VOICE?!
HE'S NOT AFRAID...!
OH, INTERESTING. THE VOICE HAS AN OWNER!

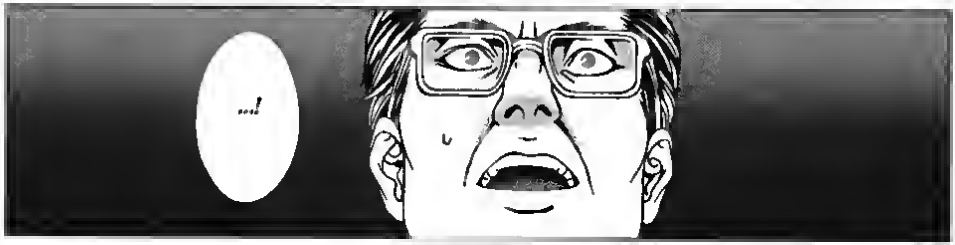
THE LAUGHING FACE'S VOICE DOESN'T WORK ON HIM!

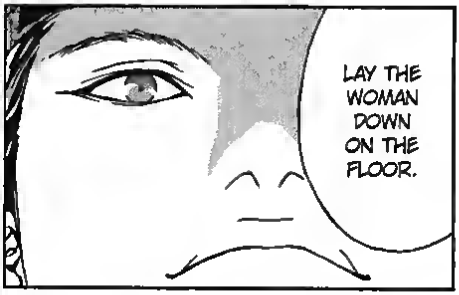
UM...THIS TRAVELING PERFORMER SAYS HE WANTS LODGING FOR THE NIGHT...

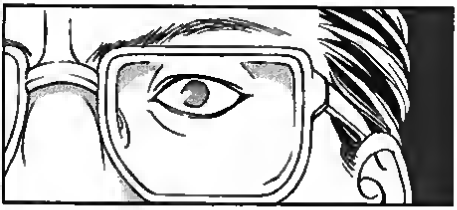
---WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?!


AND I DO NOT REQUEST IT FOR FREE.




...!


LAY THE WOMAN DOWN ON THE FLOOR.



YOU MUST NEVER SPEAK OF WHAT'S ABOUT TO OCCUR.
IS SHE YOUR WIFE?
INDEED SHE IS.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

ARE YOU A NITWIT?
I ASKED IF *YOU'RE* A NITWIT.
N-NITWIT...?
...
I'M A TOURING PERFORMER, AND I'M ATTEMPTING TO GIVE YOUR WIFE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

AH, YES.
MY NAME IS
AKAMUSHI
FUJIWARA.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
TAIMASHIN: THE RED SPIDER EXORCIST 3

2007.5.18

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TAIMASHIN

THE RED SPIDER EXORCIST

退魔針 紅虫魔殺行

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